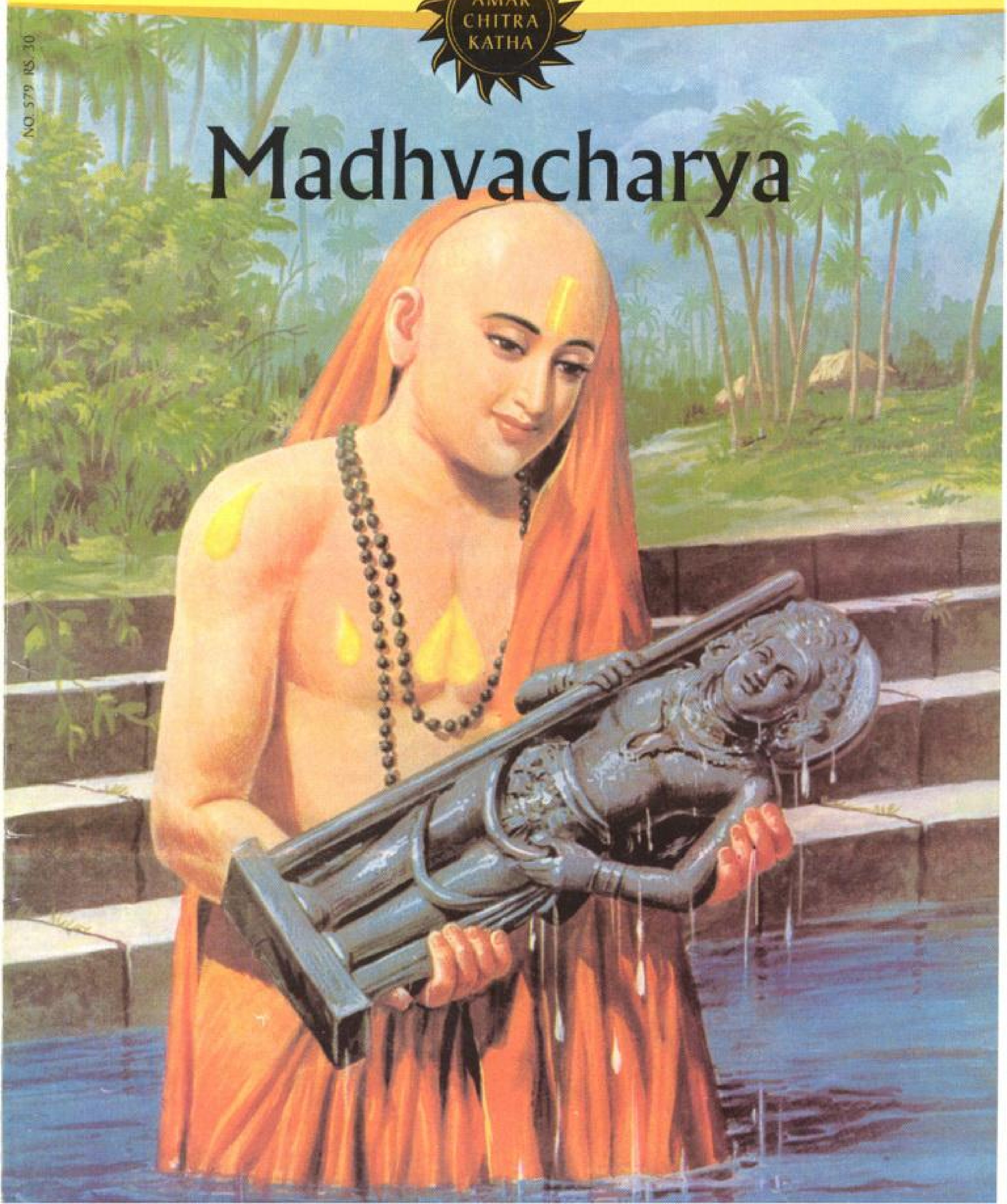
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

NO. 579 RS. 30

# Madhvacharya



AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Illustrated Classics From India

**Over 86 million copies of over 400 titles sold worldwide!**

Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 430 stories from all over India have been told in this series that has been endorsed by educationists and recommended by teachers the world over.

Through a masterful blend of commentary, dialogue and illustration, Amar Chitra Katha presents complex historical facts and intricate mythology in a format that would appeal to children. They not only entertain, but also provide a fitting introduction to the cultural heritage of India. In a country so vast and varied, the series also serves as a medium for national integration, by introducing young readers to the rich cultural diversity of the country and highlighting the achievements of local heroes.

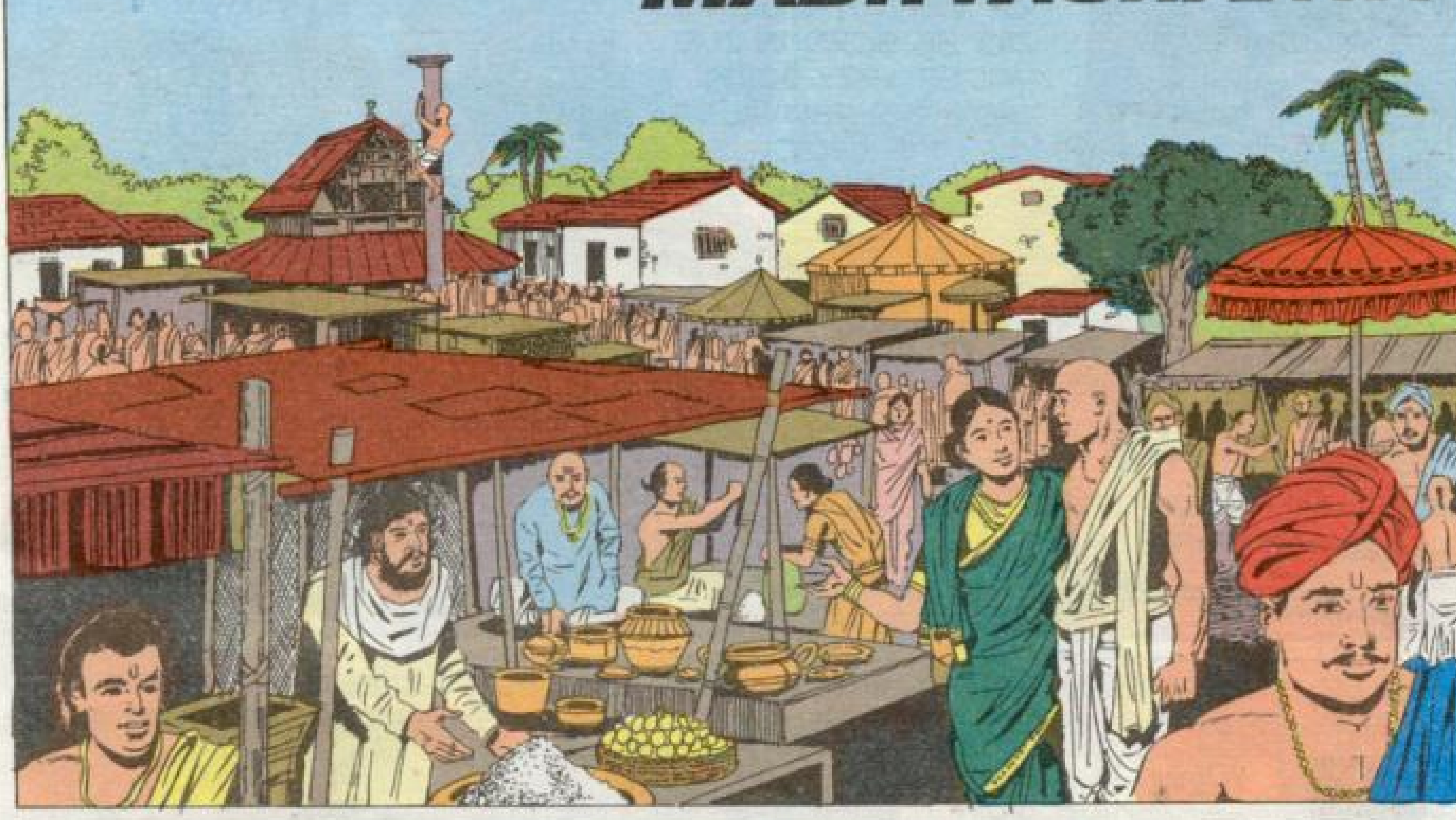
Amar Chitra Katha comics are like family heirlooms, passed down from generation to generation. These timeless illustrated classics are now also available online on www.AmarChitraKatha.com. Start your own collection today!

No. 579 • Rs 30

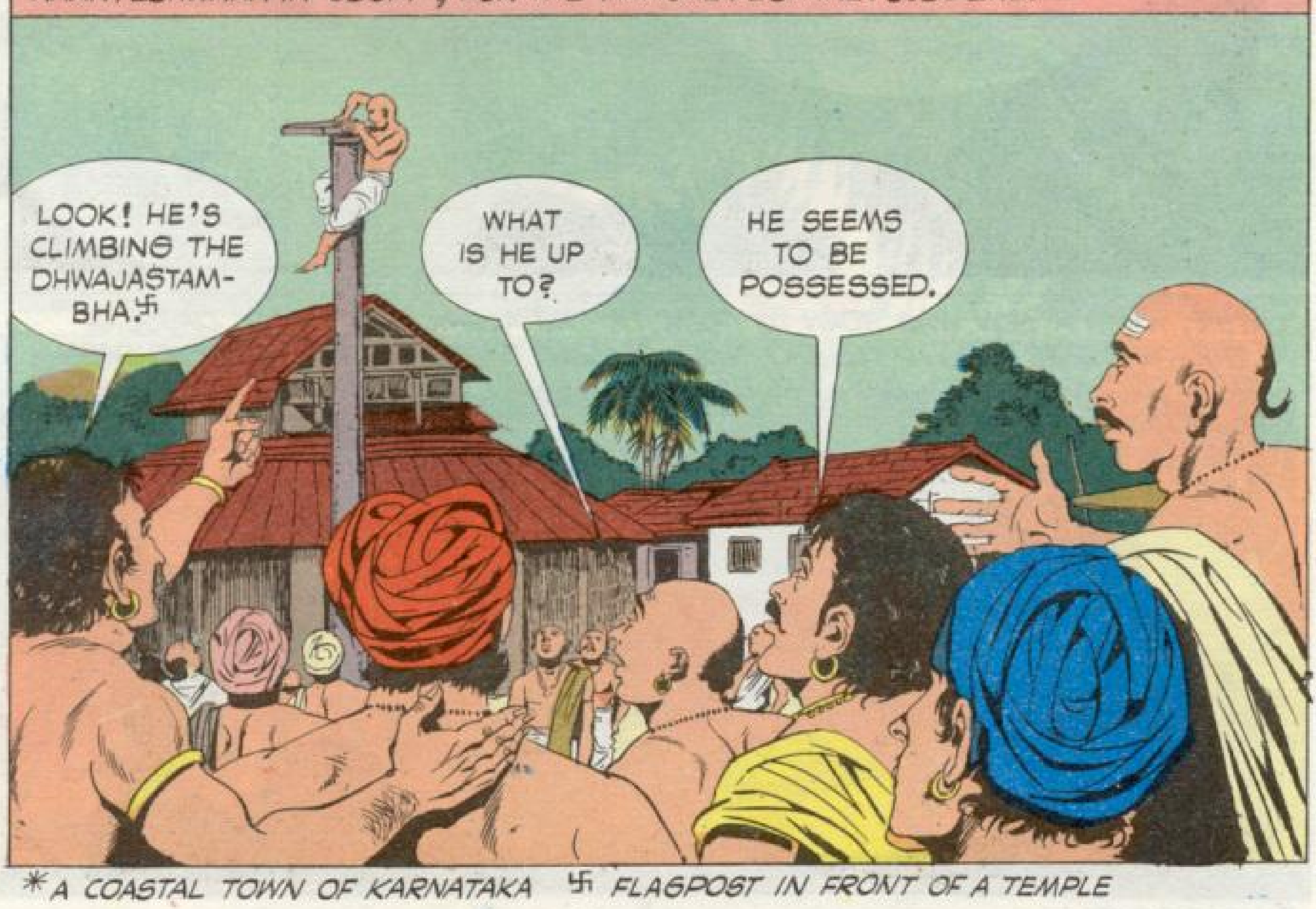
IBH
INDIA BOOK HOUSE

 Reprinted: March 2006 ISBN: 81-7508-284-4
Published and Printed by India Book House Pvt Ltd, Mahalaxmi Chambers, 5th Floor, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai 400 026, India.

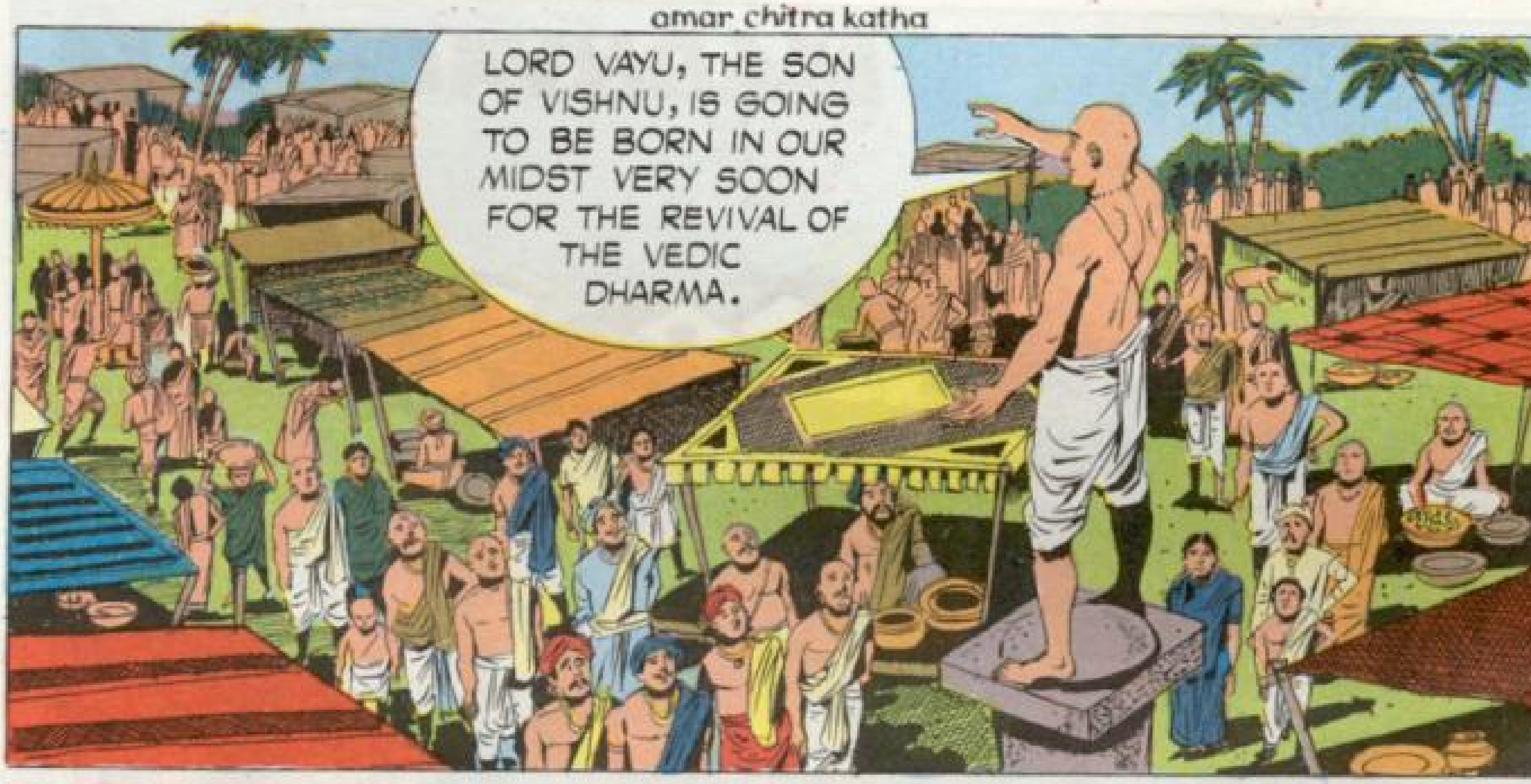
# MADHVACHARYA

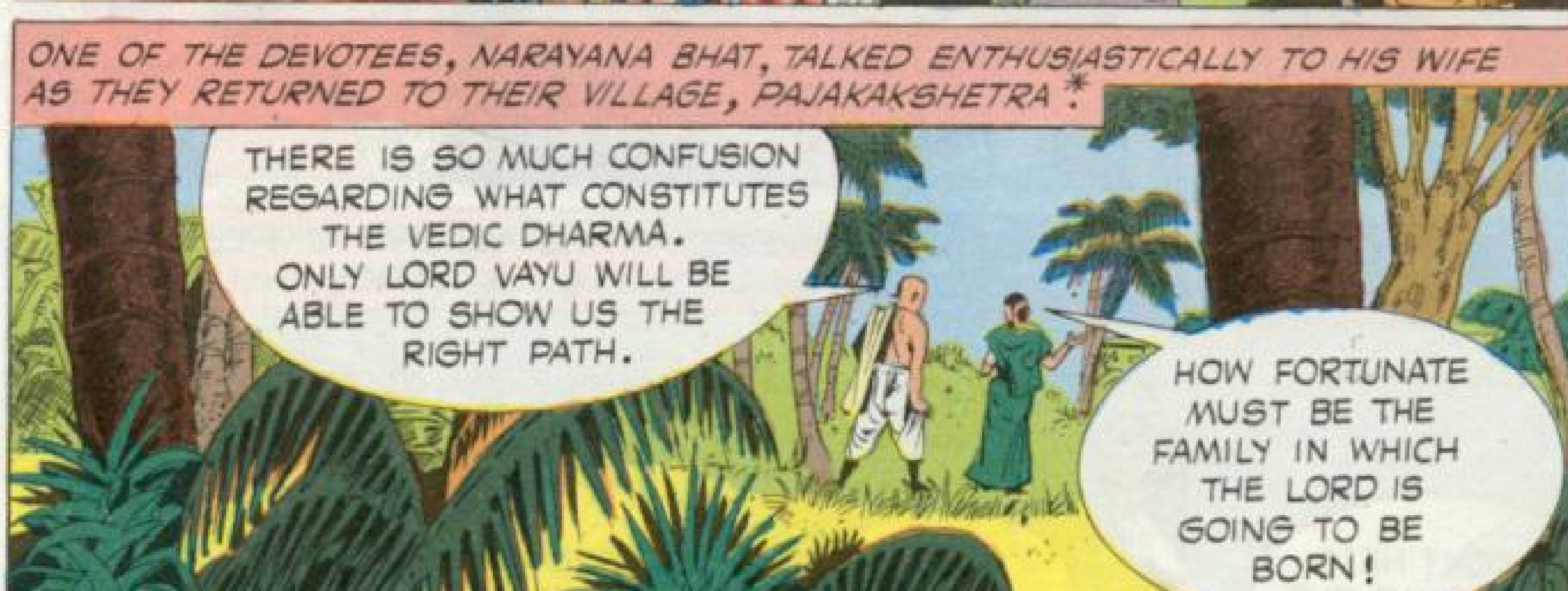


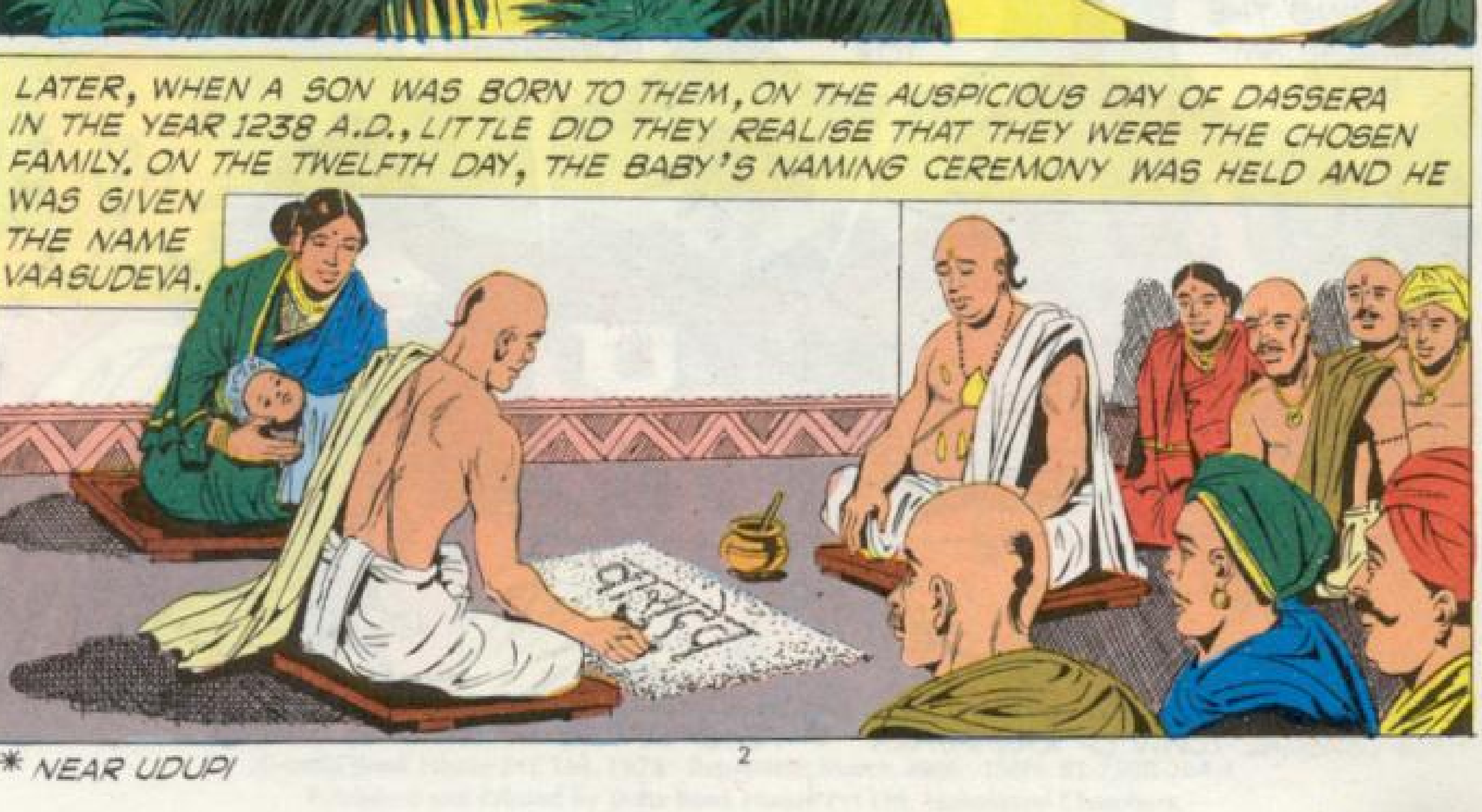
A VAST NUMBER OF DEVOTEES HAD GATHERED AT THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF ANANTESHWARA IN UDUPI*, FOR THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL. SUDDENLY—



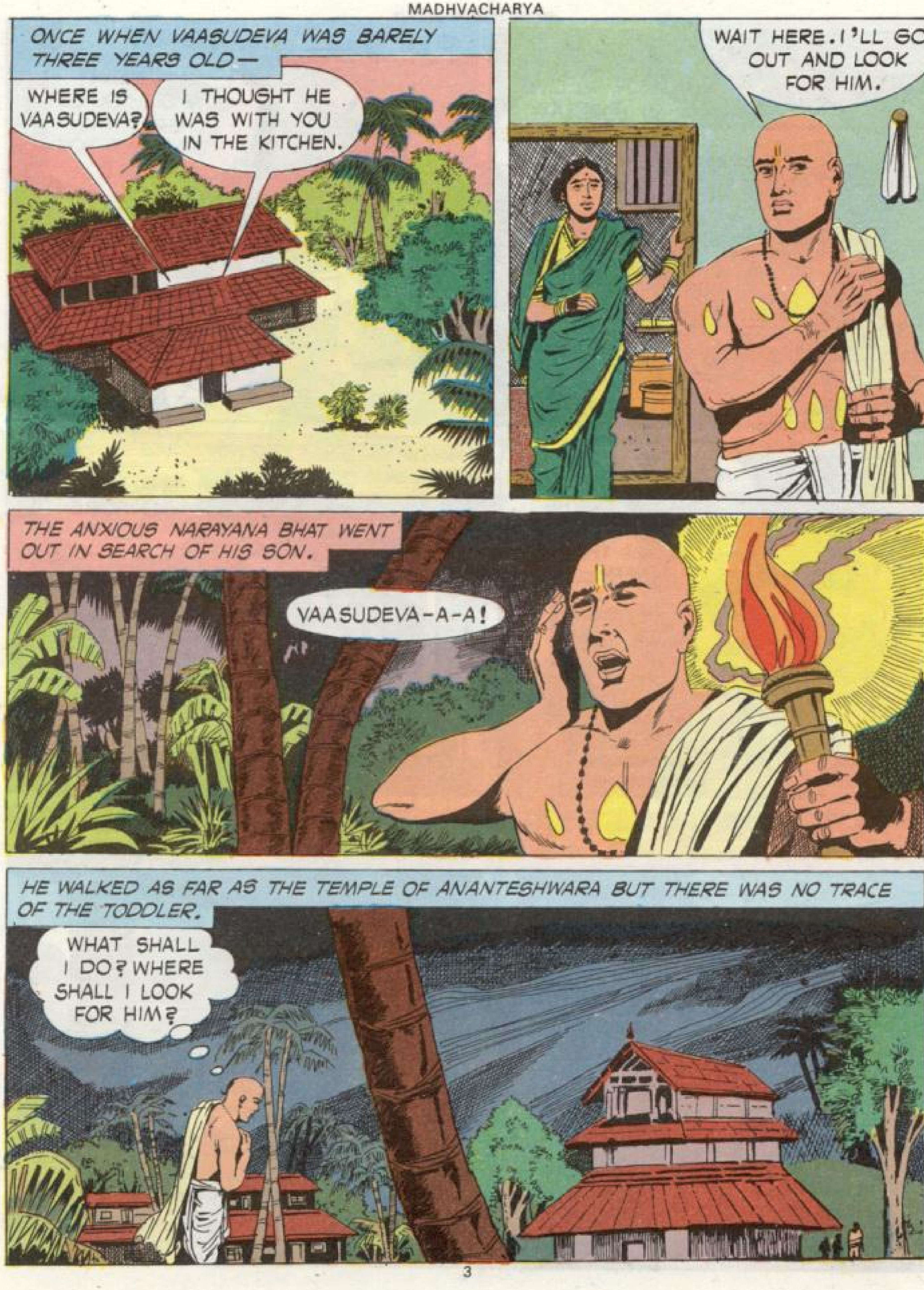

* A COASTAL TOWN OF KARNATAKA 卐 FLAGPOST IN FRONT OF A TEMPLE

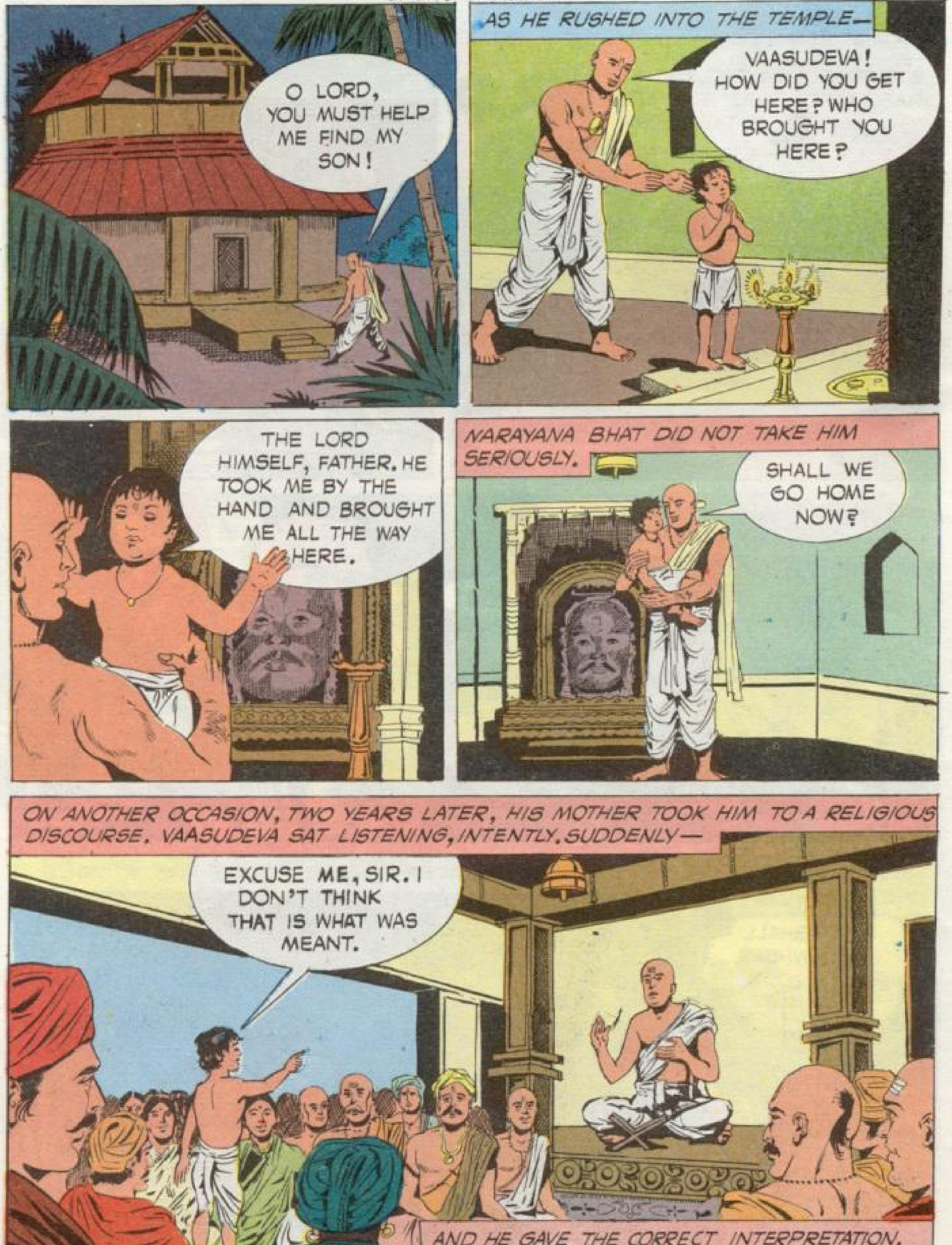

LORD VAYU, THE SON OF VISHNU, IS GOING TO BE BORN IN OUR MIDST VERY SOON FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE VEDIC DHARMA.


ONE OF THE DEVOTEES, NARAYANA BHAT, TALKED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HIS WIFE AS THEY RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGE, PAJAKAKSHETRA*.
THERE IS SO MUCH CONFUSION REGARDING WHAT CONSTITUTES THE VEDIC DHARMA. ONLY LORD VAYU WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW US THE RIGHT PATH.
HOW FORTUNATE MUST BE THE FAMILY IN WHICH THE LORD IS GOING TO BE BORN!


LATER, WHEN A SON WAS BORN TO THEM, ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DASSERA IN THE YEAR 1238 A.D., LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT THEY WERE THE CHOSEN FAMILY. ON THE TWELFTH DAY, THE BABY'S NAMING CEREMONY WAS HELD AND HE WAS GIVEN THE NAME VAASUDEVA.

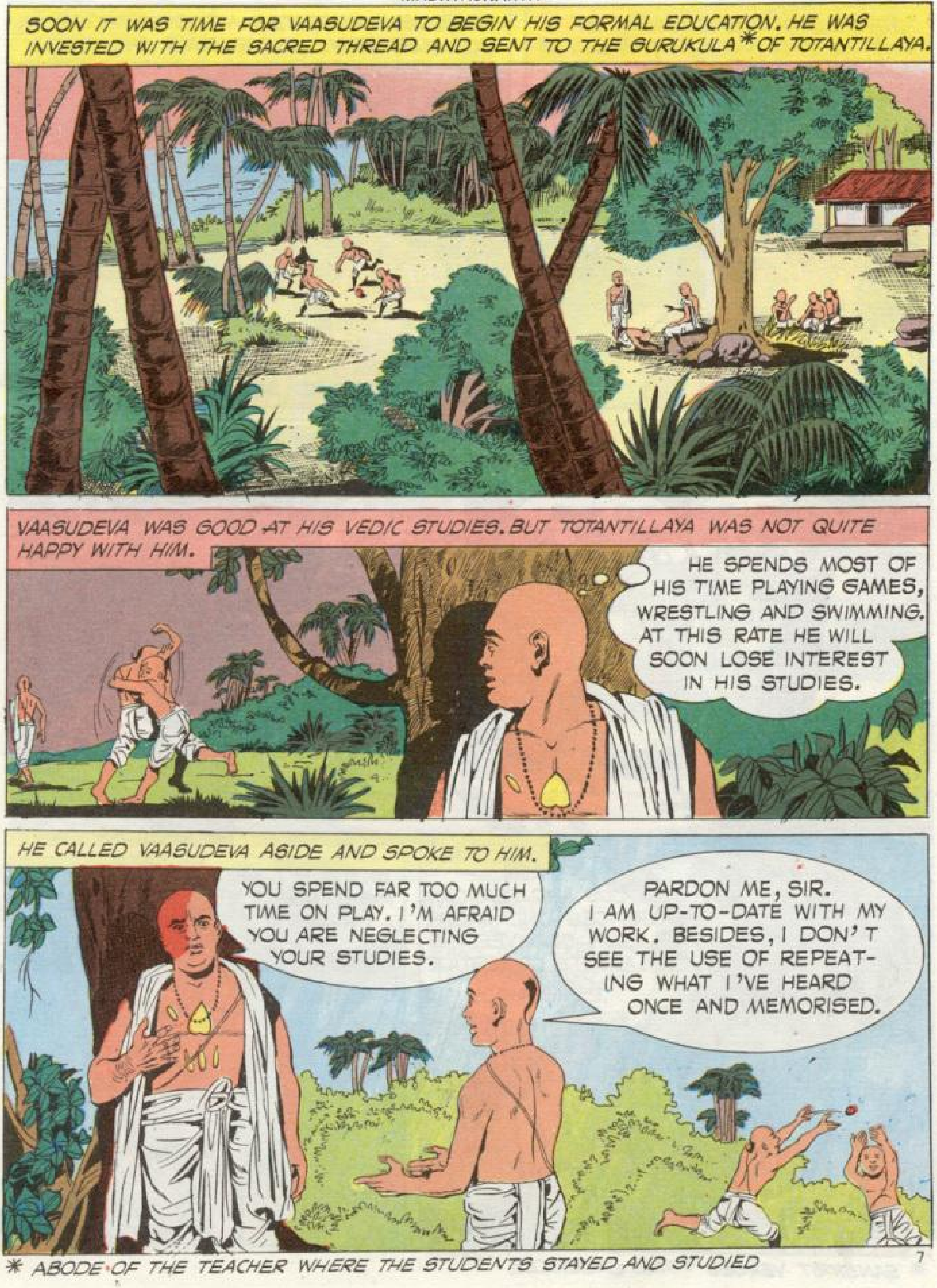
* NEAR UDUPI


ONCE WHEN VAASUDEVA WAS BARELY THREE YEARS OLD—
WHERE IS VAASUDEVA?
I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU IN THE KITCHEN.
WAIT HERE. I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM.
THE ANXIOUS NARAYANA BHAT WENT OUT IN SEARCH OF HIS SON.
VAASUDEVA-A-A!
HE WALKED AS FAR AS THE TEMPLE OF ANANTESHWARA BUT THERE WAS NO TRACE OF THE TODDLER.
WHAT SHALL I DO? WHERE SHALL I LOOK FOR HIM?

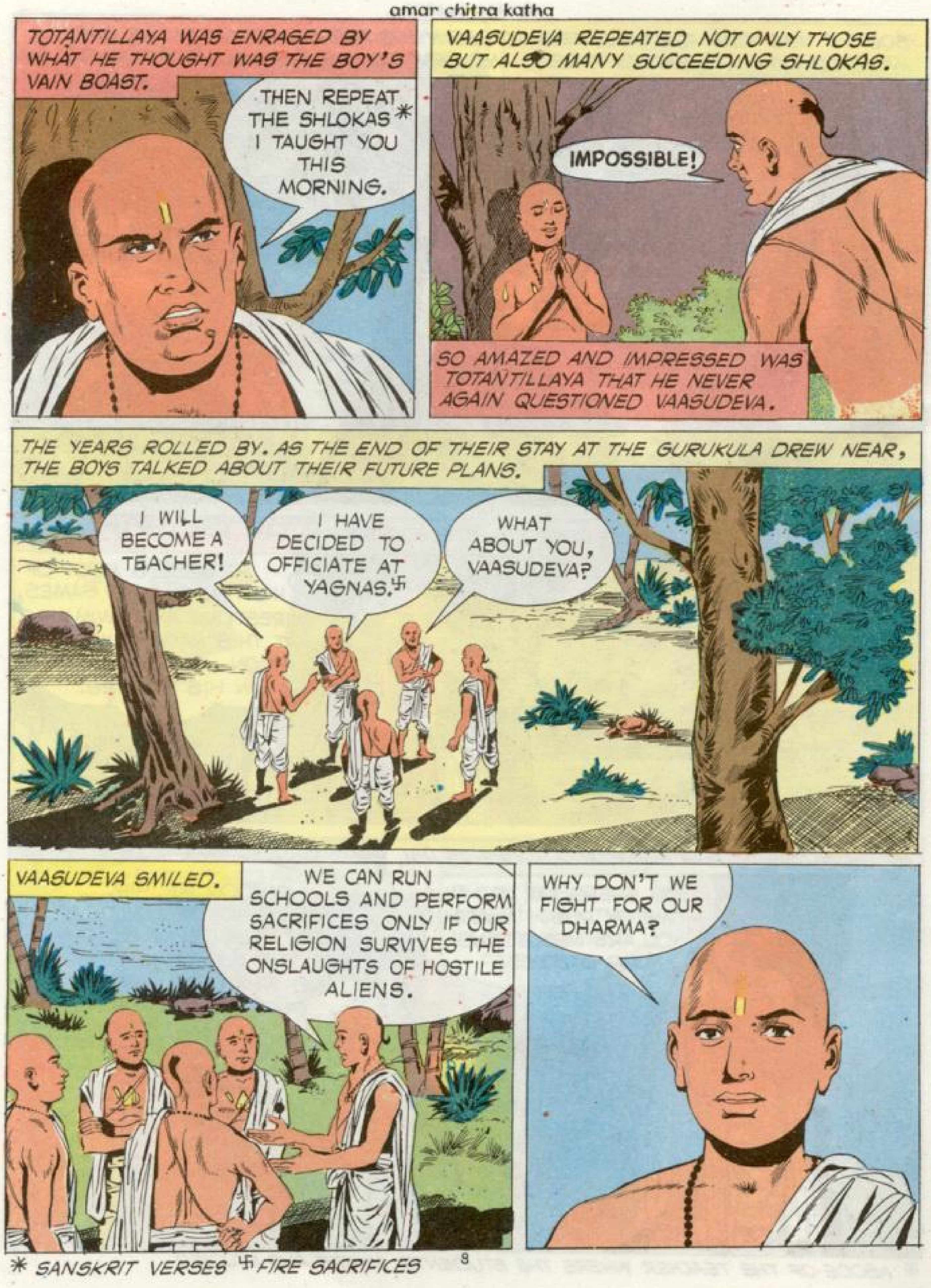

O LORD, YOU MUST HELP ME FIND MY SON!
AS HE RUSHED INTO THE TEMPLE—
VAASUDEVA! HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?
THE LORD HIMSELF, FATHER. HE TOOK ME BY THE HAND AND BROUGHT ME ALL THE WAY HERE.
NARAYANA BHAT DID NOT TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY.
SHALL WE GO HOME NOW?
ON ANOTHER OCCASION, TWO YEARS LATER, HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM TO A RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE. VAASUDEVA SAT LISTENING, INTENTLY. SUDDENLY—
EXCUSE ME, SIR. I DON'T THINK THAT IS WHAT WAS MEANT.
AND HE GAVE THE CORRECT INTERPRETATION.


MY CHILD, YOUR LOVE OF TRUTH AND YOUR COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR IT MARK YOU OUT AS A GREAT SOUL.
NOT ONLY WAS VAASUDEVA GIFTED WITH SPIRITUAL INSIGHT BUT HE WAS ENDOWED WITH MIRACULOUS POWERS TOO. ONE MORNING—
KAKRA SHETTY HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT. BUT I CANNOT MAKE HIM WAIT ANY LONGER. I MUST GIVE HIM THE MONEY TODAY. SOMEHOW! ANYHOW!
HE LOOKS WORRIED. I WONDER WHAT'S TROUBLING HIM.
THAT AFTERNOON—
VAASUDEVA, PLEASE TELL YOUR FATHER, LUNCH IS READY.
YES, MOTHER.
HE STILL HASN'T RETURNED.
I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM.

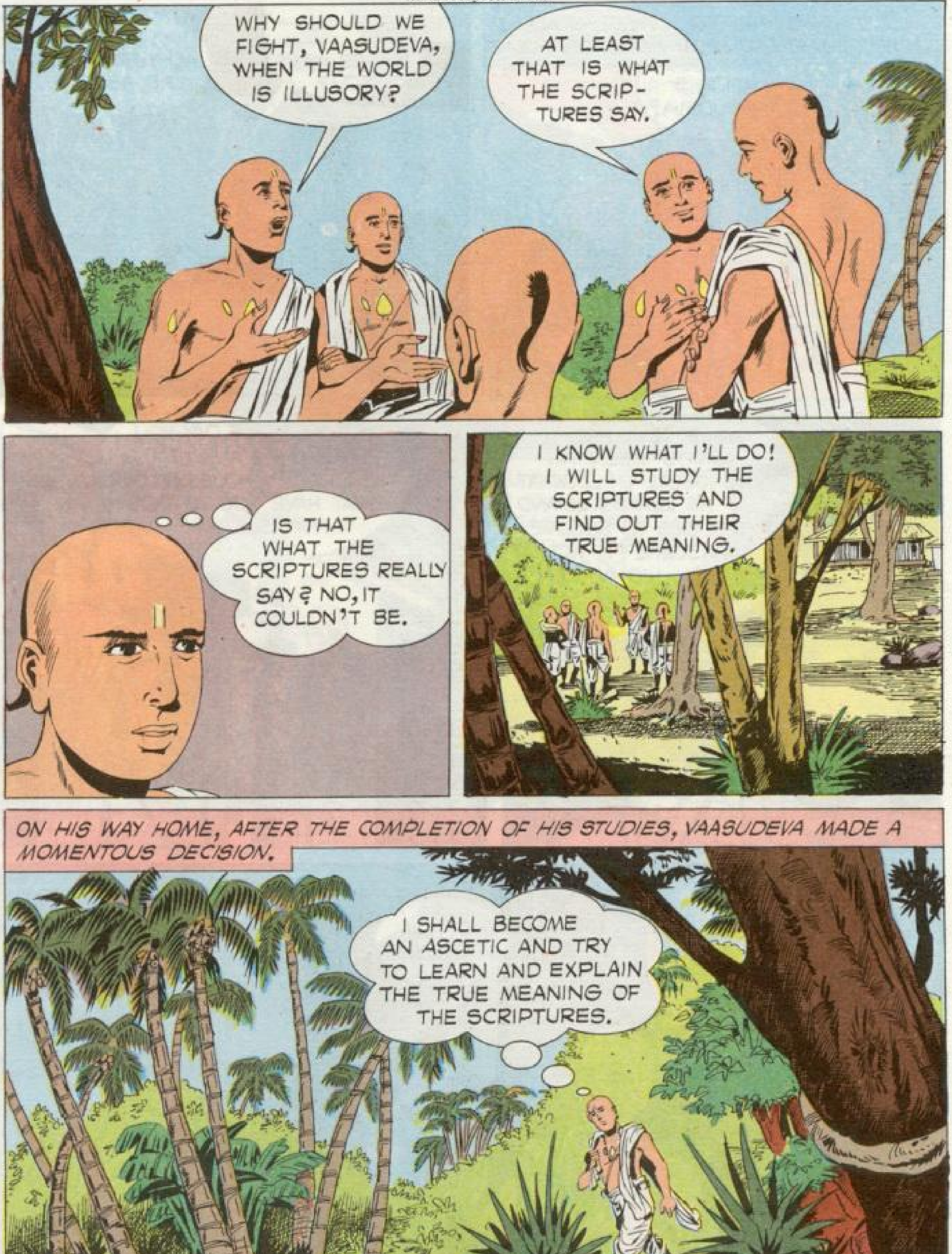

AS VAASUDEVA CAME OUT, HE SAW A MAN.
CAN I DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, SIR ?
YOUR FATHER OWES ME MONEY. I HAVE COME TO COLLECT IT.
THE MAN WAS NONE OTHER THAN KAKRA SHETTY.
OH! PLEASE WAIT. I'LL BRING YOU THE MONEY.
VAASUDEVA WENT TO THE GARDEN AND PICKED UP A FEW DRY TAMARIND SEEDS.
HE CAME BACK AND PLACED THEM IN THE OUTSTRETCHED PALMS OF THE CREDITOR.
LO! THEY WERE ALL GOLD COINS.
THERE'S FAR MORE HERE THAN I LENT YOUR FATHER.
KEEP IT, SIR, FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND YOUR PATIENCE.

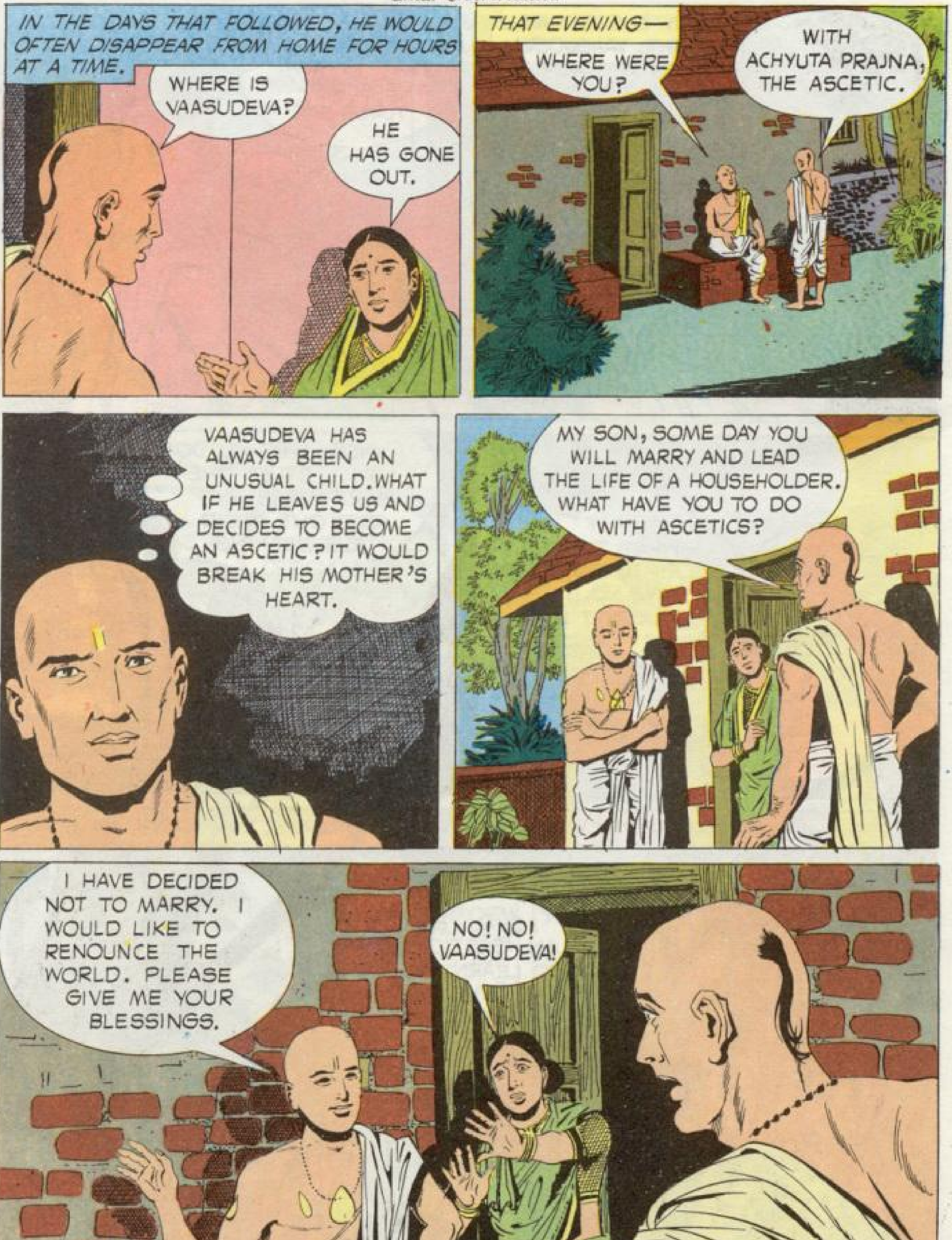



* ABODE OF THE TEACHER WHERE THE STUDENTS STAYED AND STUDIED

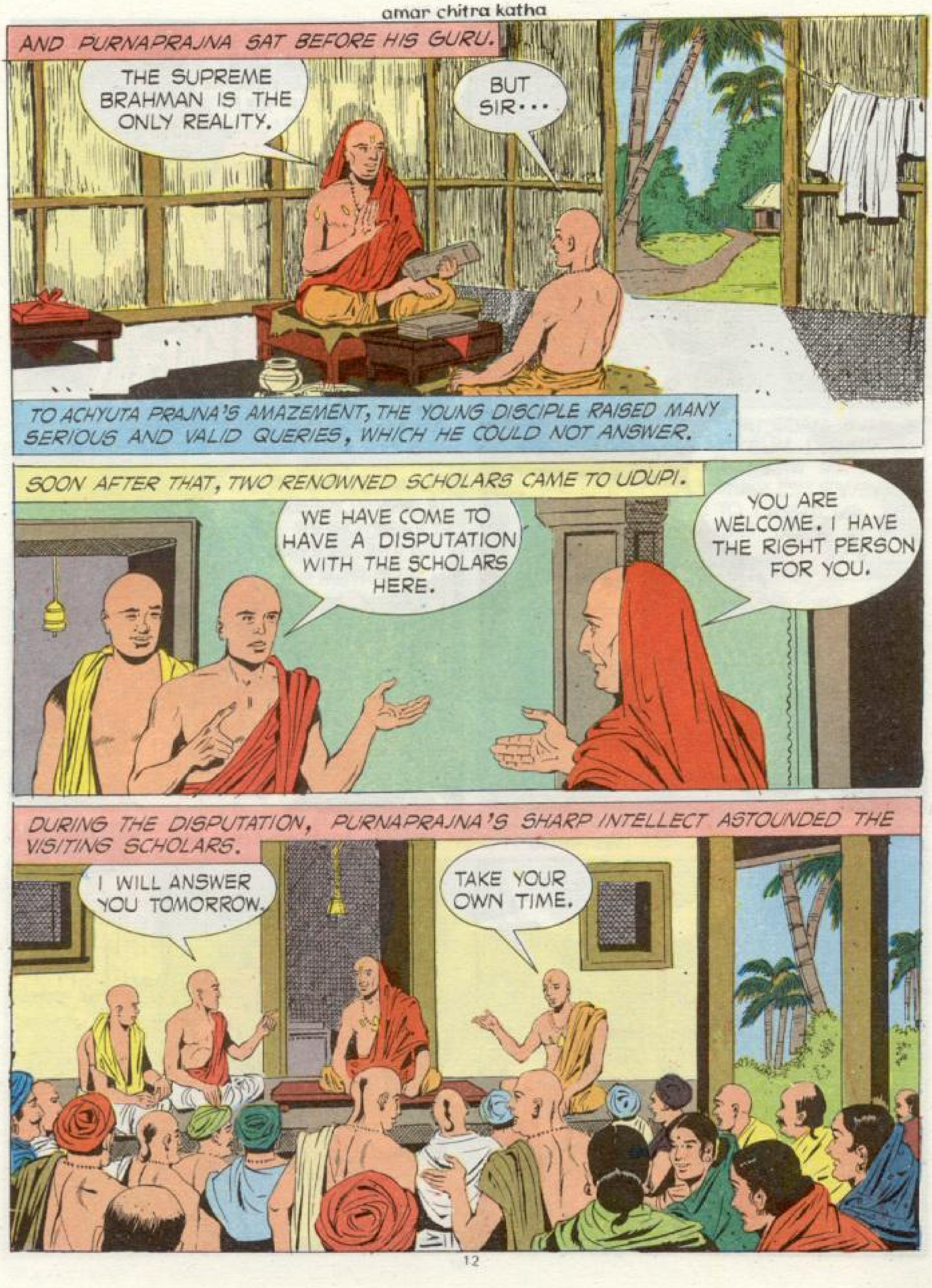


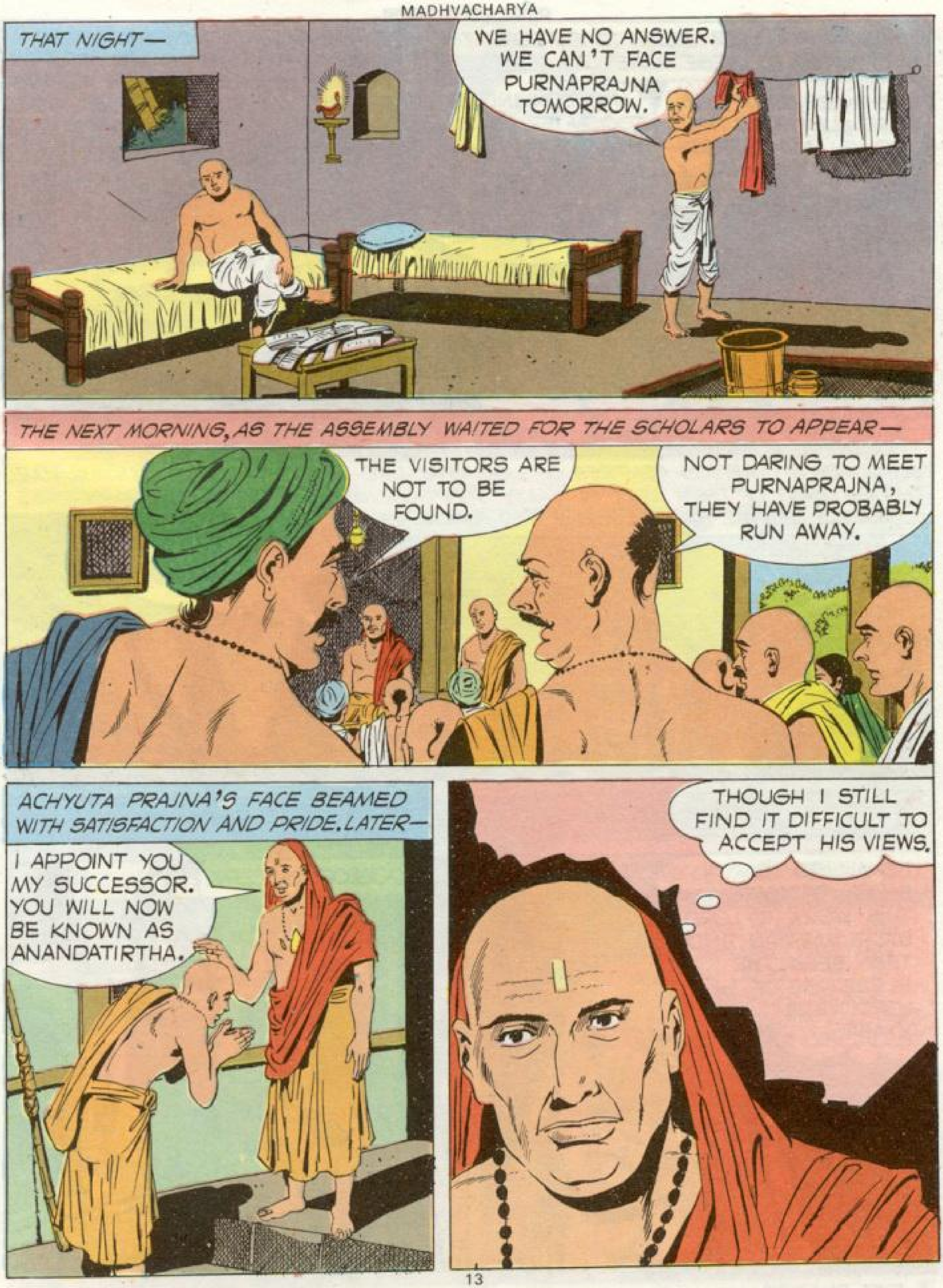

* SANSKRIT VERSES 卐 FIRE SACRIFICES

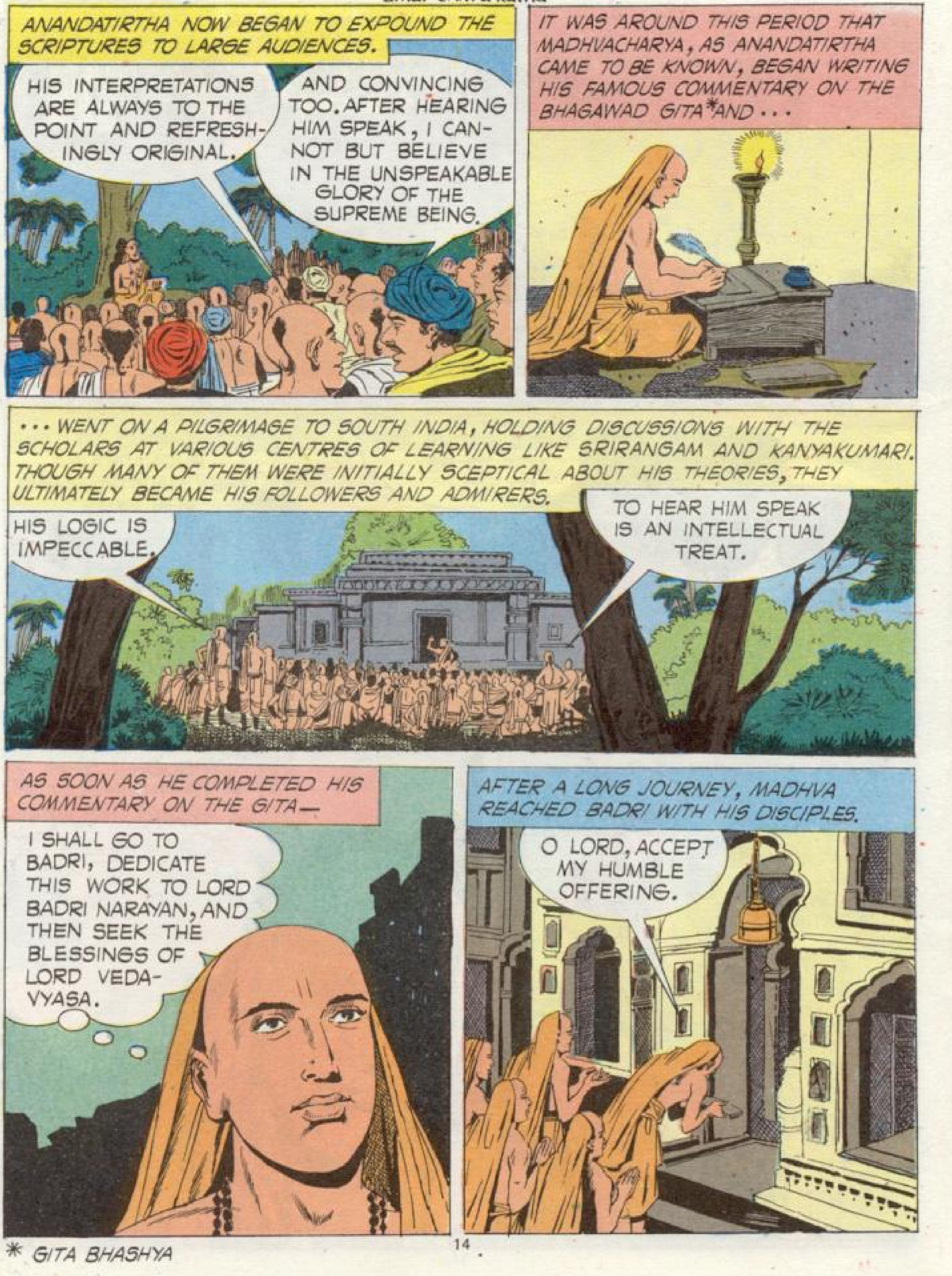

WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT, VAASUDEVA, WHEN THE WORLD IS ILLUSORY?
AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT THE SCRIP- TURES SAY.
IS THAT WHAT THE SCRIPTURES REALLY SAY? NO, IT COULDN'T BE.
I KNOW WHAT I'LL DO! I WILL STUDY THE SCRIPTURES AND FIND OUT THEIR TRUE MEANING.
ON HIS WAY HOME, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HIS STUDIES, VAASUDEVA MADE A MOMENTOUS DECISION.
I SHALL BECOME AN ASCETIC AND TRY TO LEARN AND EXPLAIN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SCRIPTURES.


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, HE WOULD OFTEN DISAPPEAR FROM HOME FOR HOURS AT A TIME.
WHERE IS VAASUDEVA?
HE HAS GONE OUT.
THAT EVENING—
WHERE WERE YOU?
WITH ACHYUTA PRAJNA, THE ASCETIC.
VAASUDEVA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN UNUSUAL CHILD. WHAT IF HE LEAVES US AND DECIDES TO BECOME AN ASCETIC? IT WOULD BREAK HIS MOTHER'S HEART.
MY SON, SOME DAY YOU WILL MARRY AND LEAD THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO WITH ASCETICS?
I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO MARRY. I WOULD LIKE TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD. PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR BLESSINGS.
NO! NO! VAASUDEVA!


VAASUDEVA, YOU ARE OUR ONLY SON. HOW CAN YOU LEAVE US AND BECOME A SANYASI? PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T.
GIVE UP SUCH IDEAS, VAASUDEVA. OUR LINEAGE WILL BECOME EXTINCT IF YOU DON'T.
I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND. I MUST GO. I AM WILLING, HOWEVER, TO WAIT TILL ANOTHER SON IS BORN TO YOU.
IN DUE COURSE WHEN ANOTHER SON WAS BORN TO HIS PARENTS —
YOU MUST NOT STOP ME ANY LONGER. PLEASE OFFER ME TO THE SERVICE OF GOD.
GO, VAASUDEVA! GO WITH MY BLESSINGS.
VAASUDEVA WAS AT LAST ORDAINED A SANYASI BY ACHYUTA PRAJNA.
YOU WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS PURNA-PRAJNA.


AND PURNAPRAJNA SAT BEFORE HIS GURU.
THE SUPREME BRAHMAN IS THE ONLY REALITY.
BUT SIR...
TO ACHYUTA PRAJNA'S AMAZEMENT, THE YOUNG DISCIPLE RAISED MANY SERIOUS AND VALID QUERIES, WHICH HE COULD NOT ANSWER.
SOON AFTER THAT, TWO RENOWNED SCHOLARS CAME TO UDUPI.
WE HAVE COME TO HAVE A DISPUTATION WITH THE SCHOLARS HERE.
YOU ARE WELCOME. I HAVE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR YOU.
DURING THE DISPUTATION, PURNAPRAJNA'S SHARP INTELLECT ASTOUNDED THE VISITING SCHOLARS.
I WILL ANSWER YOU TOMORROW.
TAKE YOUR OWN TIME.

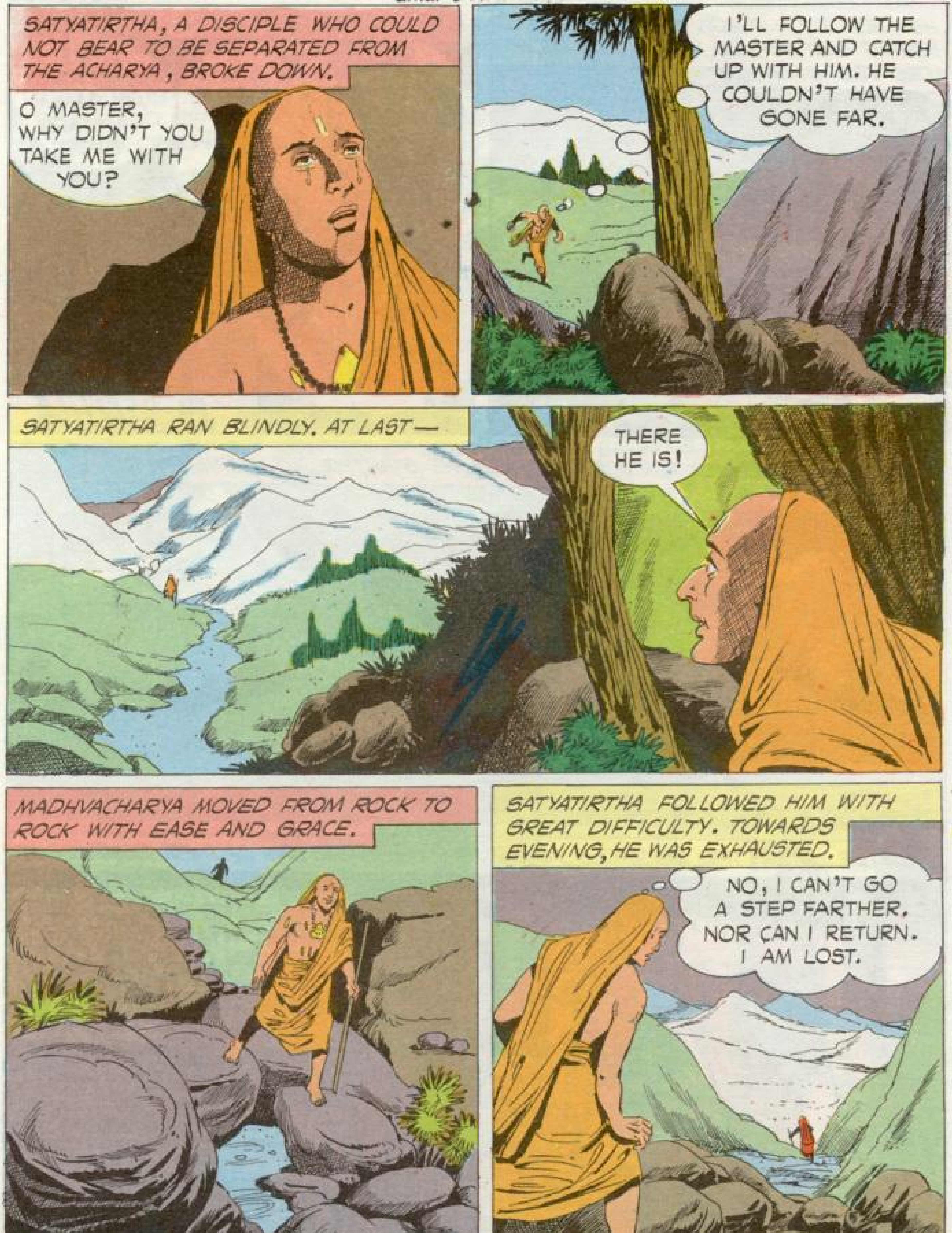

THAT NIGHT—
WE HAVE NO ANSWER. WE CAN'T FACE PURNAPRAJNA TOMORROW.
THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE ASSEMBLY WAITED FOR THE SCHOLARS TO APPEAR—
THE VISITORS ARE NOT TO BE FOUND.
NOT DARING TO MEET PURNAPRAJNA, THEY HAVE PROBABLY RUN AWAY.
ACHYUTA PRAJNA'S FACE BEAMED WITH SATISFACTION AND PRIDE. LATER—
I APPOINT YOU MY SUCCESSOR. YOU WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS ANANDATIRTHA.
THOUGH I STILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT HIS VIEWS.



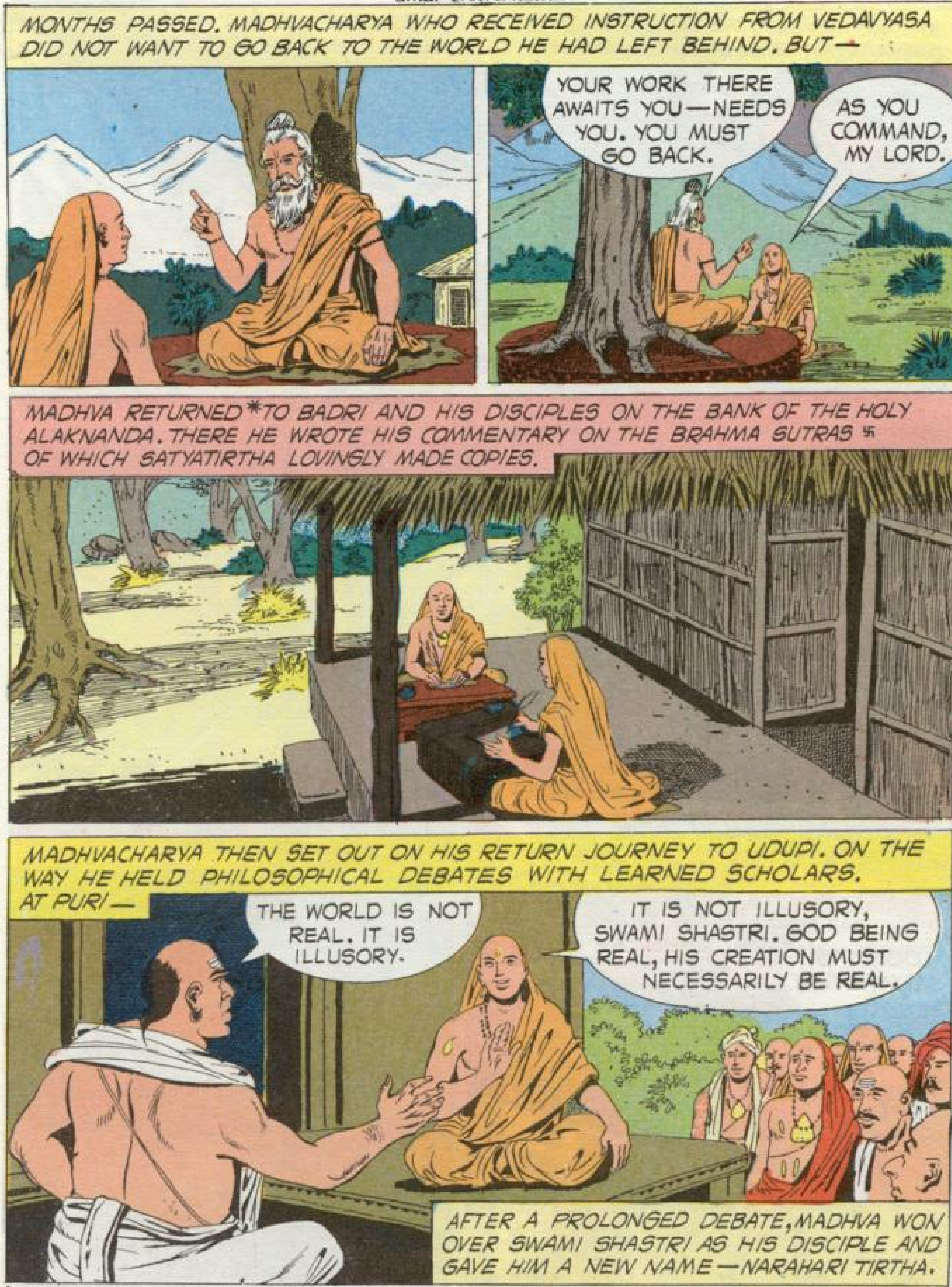



* GITA BHASHYA


HE THEN TOOK A VOW OF SILENCE, AND FASTED AND PRAYED FOR A CALL FROM LORD VEDAVYASA.
FORTY-EIGHT DAYS LATER—
COME TO ME AT MY ASHRAM IN UTTARA BADRI.
LEAVING A MESSAGE FOR HIS DISCIPLES, HE STARTED OUT ALONE ON THE ARDUOUS JOURNEY.
A LITTLE LATER, THE DISCIPLES FOUND THE MESSAGE. ONE OF THEM READ IT OUT.
"I AM GOING AWAY TO MEET SRI VEDAVYASA. WHETHER I RETURN OR NOT IS LEFT TO HIM. MAY THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU. FARE-WELL, DEAR DISCIPLES."

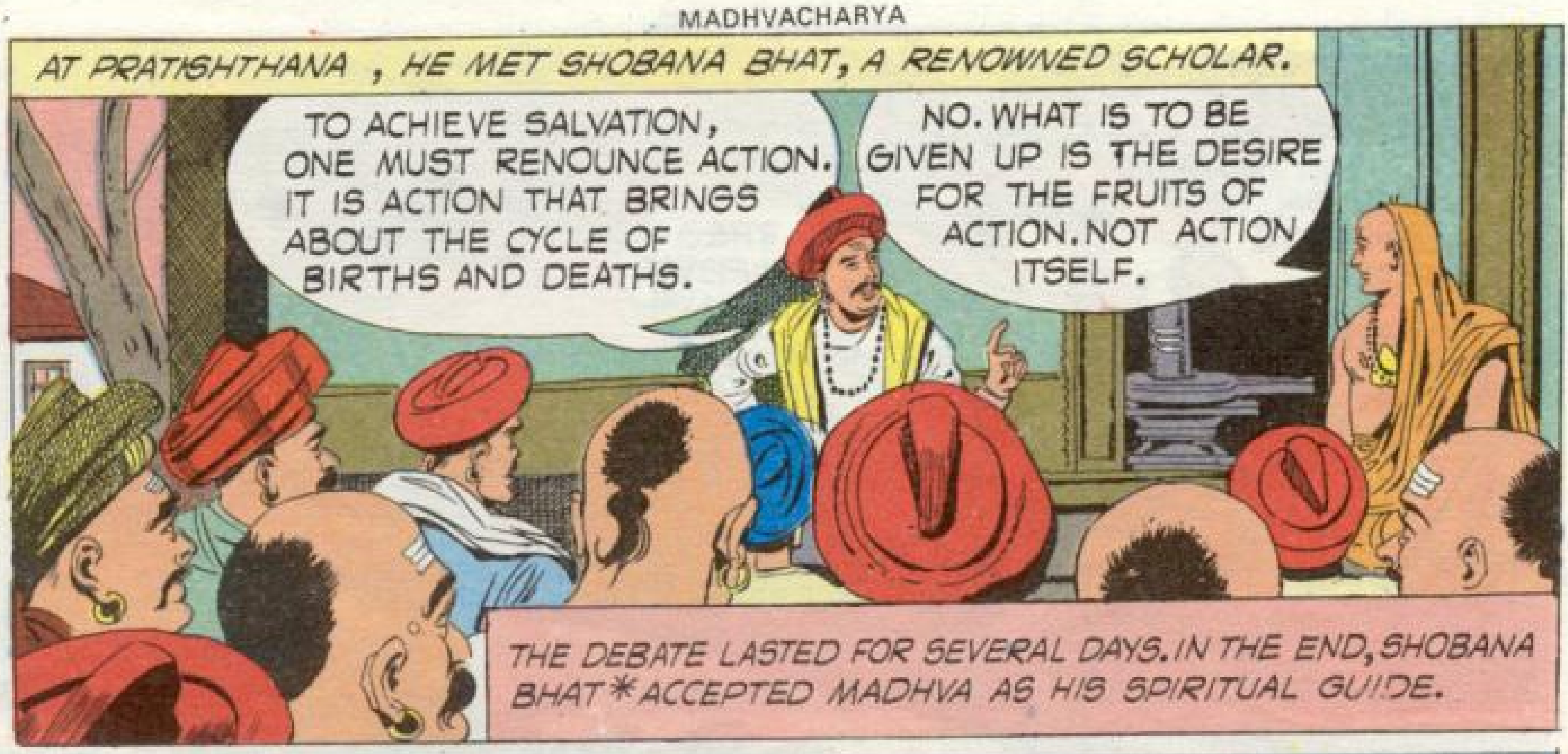

SATYATIRTHA, A DISCIPLE WHO COULD NOT BEAR TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE ACHARYA, BROKE DOWN.
O MASTER, WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
I'LL FOLLOW THE MASTER AND CATCH UP WITH HIM. HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR.
SATYATIRTHA RAN BLINDLY. AT LAST—
THERE HE IS!
MADHVACHARYA MOVED FROM ROCK TO ROCK WITH EASE AND GRACE.
SATYATIRTHA FOLLOWED HIM WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. TOWARDS EVENING, HE WAS EXHAUSTED.
NO, I CAN'T GO A STEP FARTHER. NOR CAN I RETURN. I AM LOST.


AT THAT MOMENT, THE ACHARYA HAPPENED TO LOOK BACK. HE SAW POOR SATYATIRTHA STRUGGLING FAR AWAY, TO FOLLOW HIM.
ACHARYA···A···
THE ACHARYA WAVED HIS POWERFUL HAND, SIGNALLING SATYATIRTHA TO GO BACK TO THE ASHRAM.
SATYATIRTHA FELT HIMSELF BEING LIFTED BY A POWERFUL GUST OF WIND · · ·
· · ·TO THE ASHRAM AT BADRI.
LOOK! IT'S SATYATIRTHA!
MADHVACHARYA MEANWHILE HAD REACHED VEDAVYASA'S ASHRAM.




* HE RECEIVED FROM VEDAVYASA EIGHT HANDFULS OF THE SACRED SOIL OF UTTARA BADRI

卐 APHORISMS COMPOSED BY VEDAVYASA

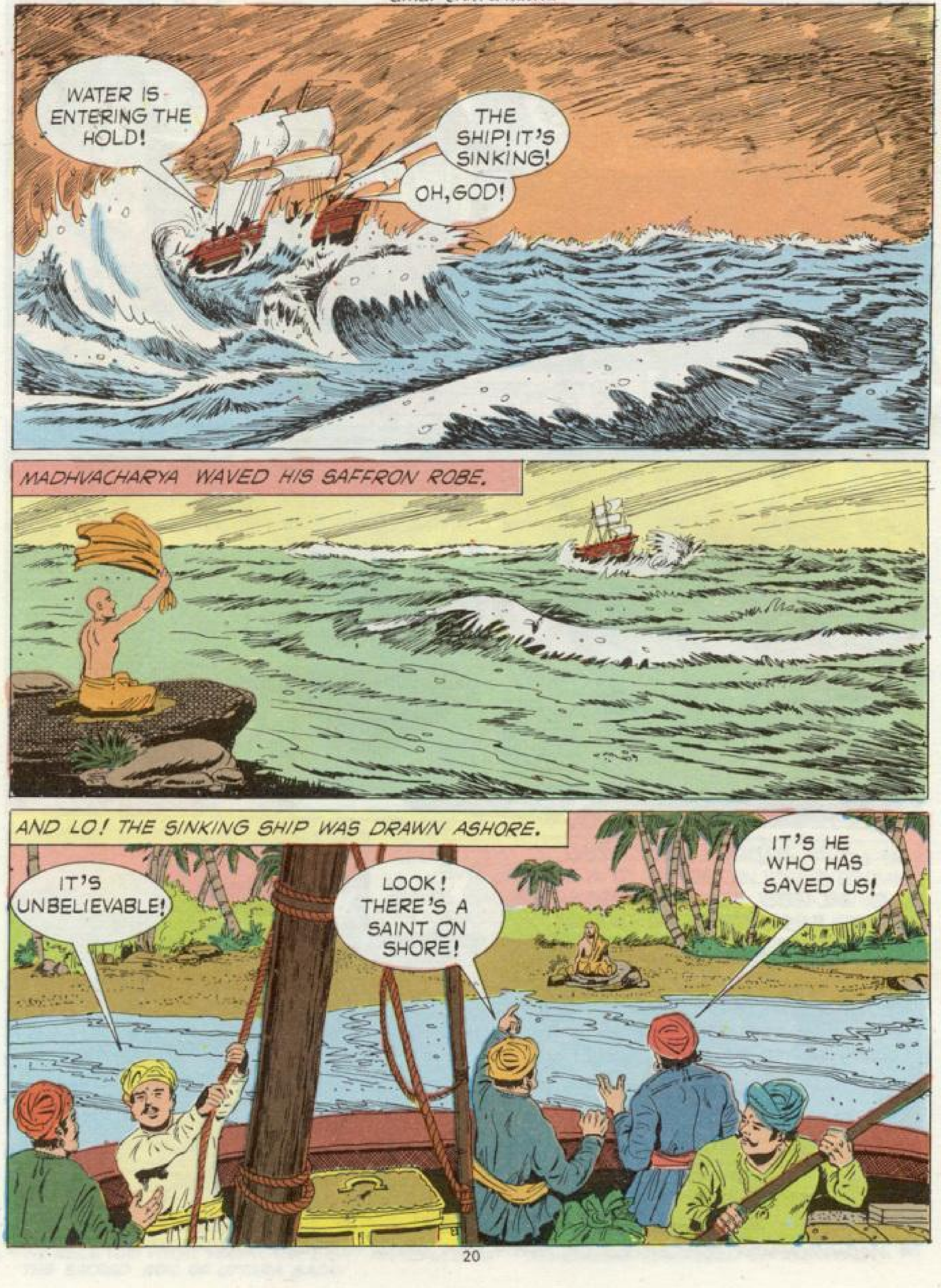






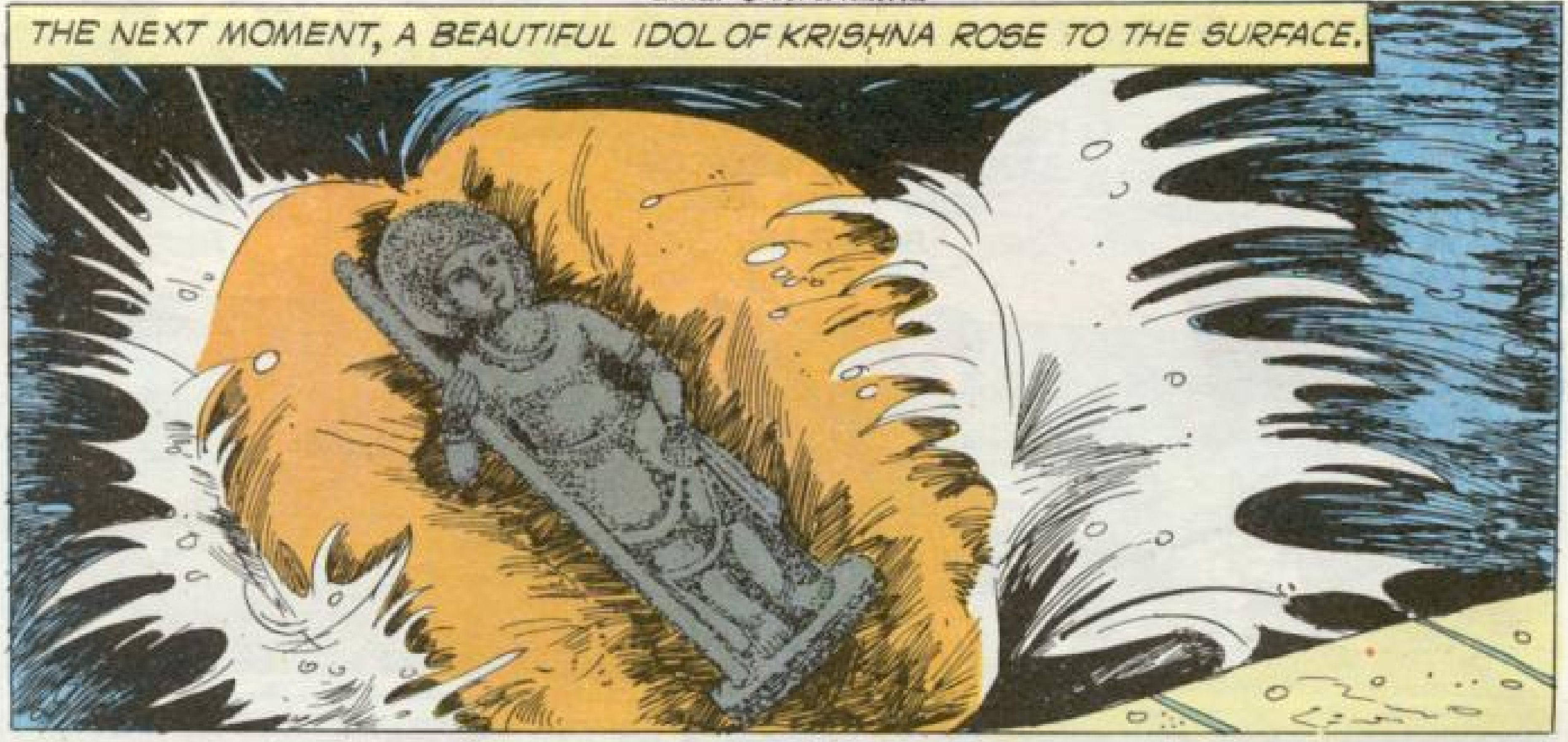


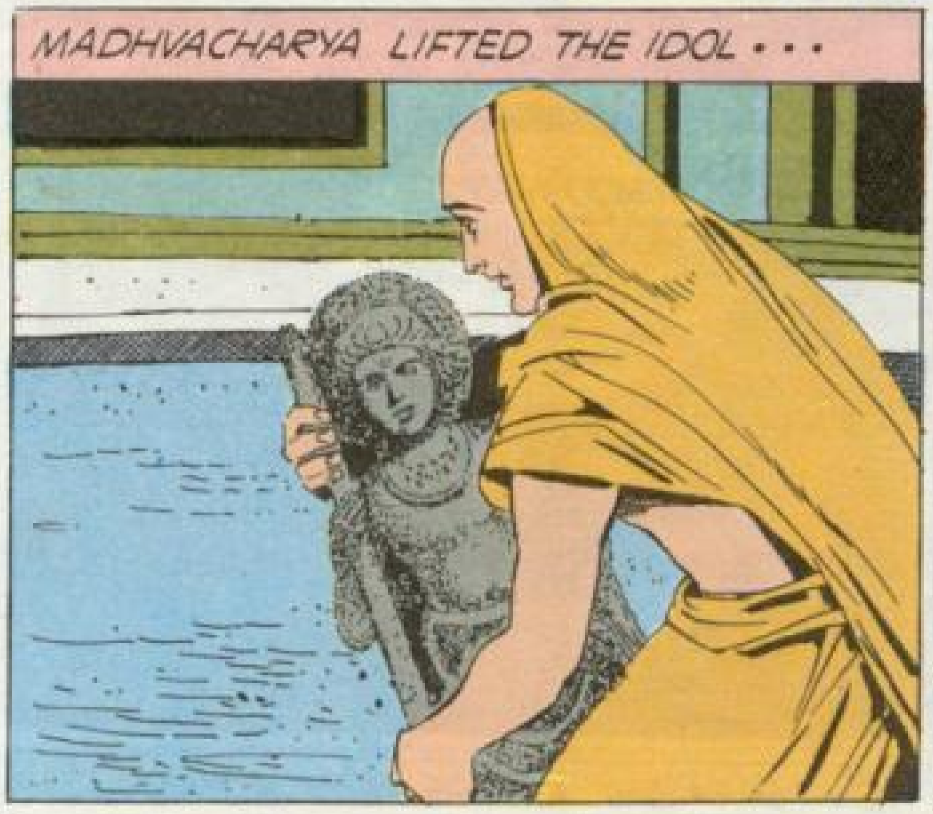

* MADHVACHARYA CONFERRED ON HIM A NEW NAME — PADMANABHA TIRTHA.


WATER IS ENTERING THE HOLD!
THE SHIP! IT'S SINKING!
OH, GOD!
MADHVACHARYA WAVED HIS SAFFRON ROBE.
AND LO! THE SINKING SHIP WAS DRAWN ASHORE.
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
LOOK! THERE'S A SAINT ON SHORE!
IT'S HE WHO HAS SAVED US!



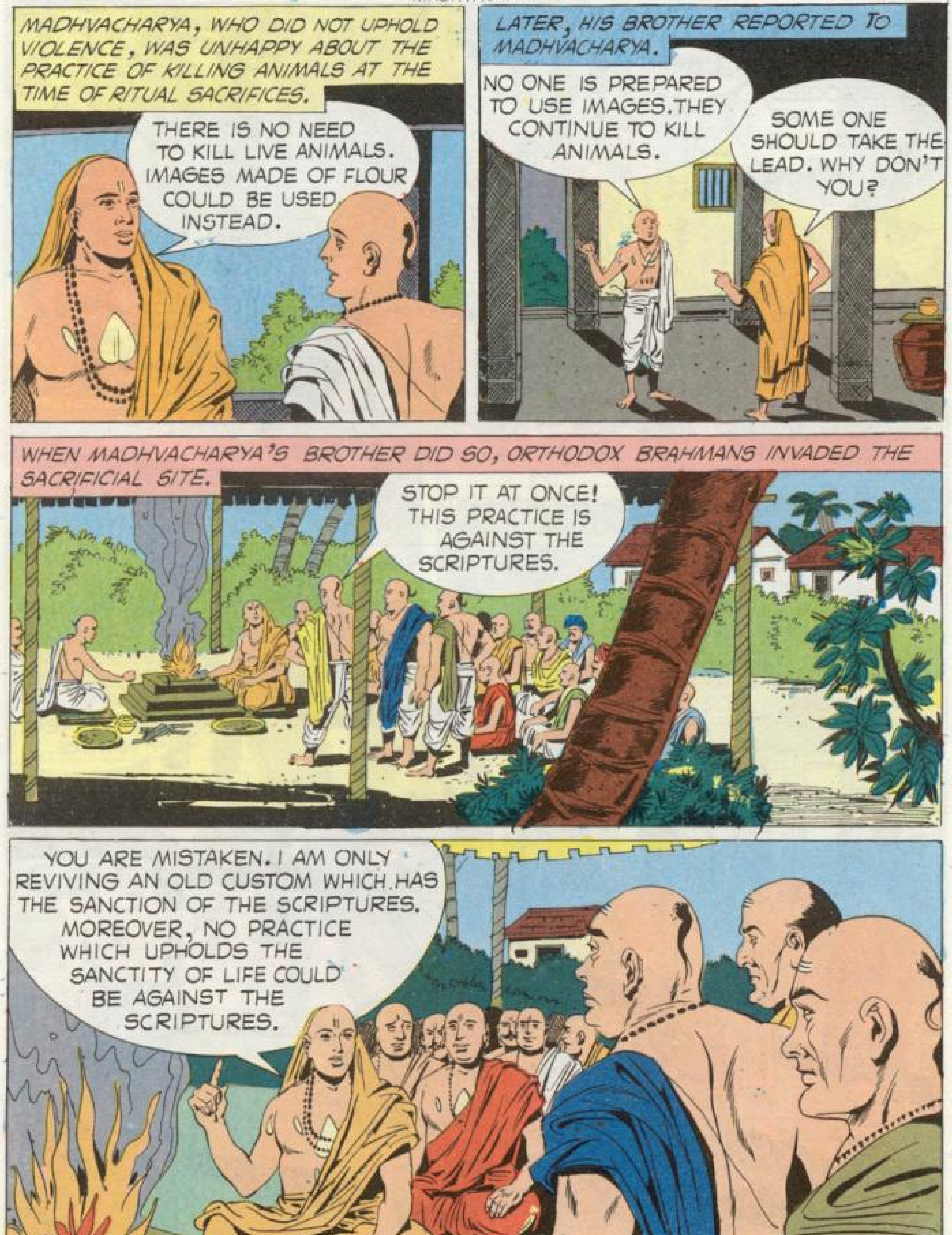

* CLOD OF EARTH, YELLOWISH IN COLOUR, FROM DWARAKA 卐 DVADASHA STOTRA

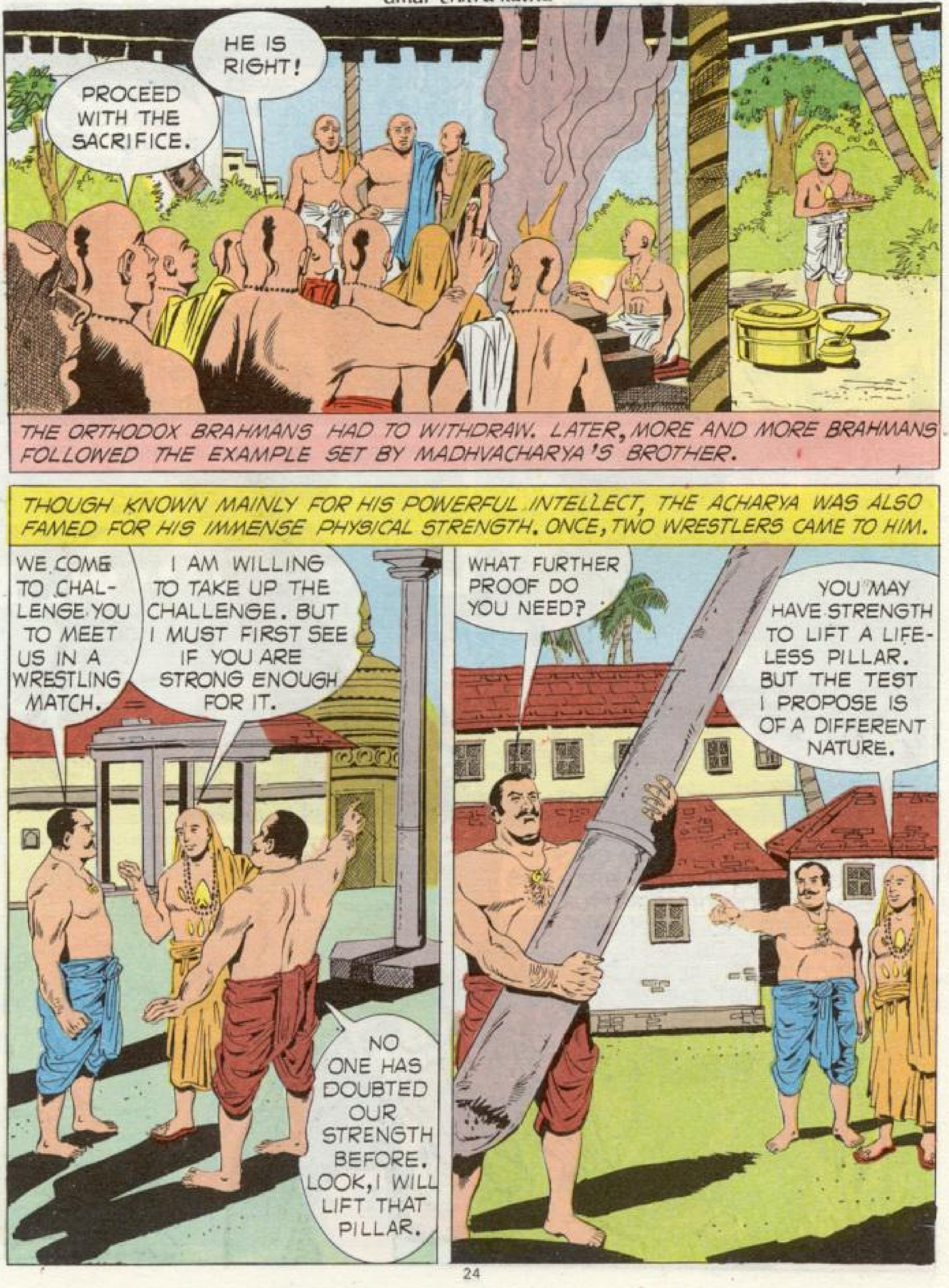

THE NEXT MOMENT, A BEAUTIFUL IDOL OF KRISHNA ROSE TO THE SURFACE.

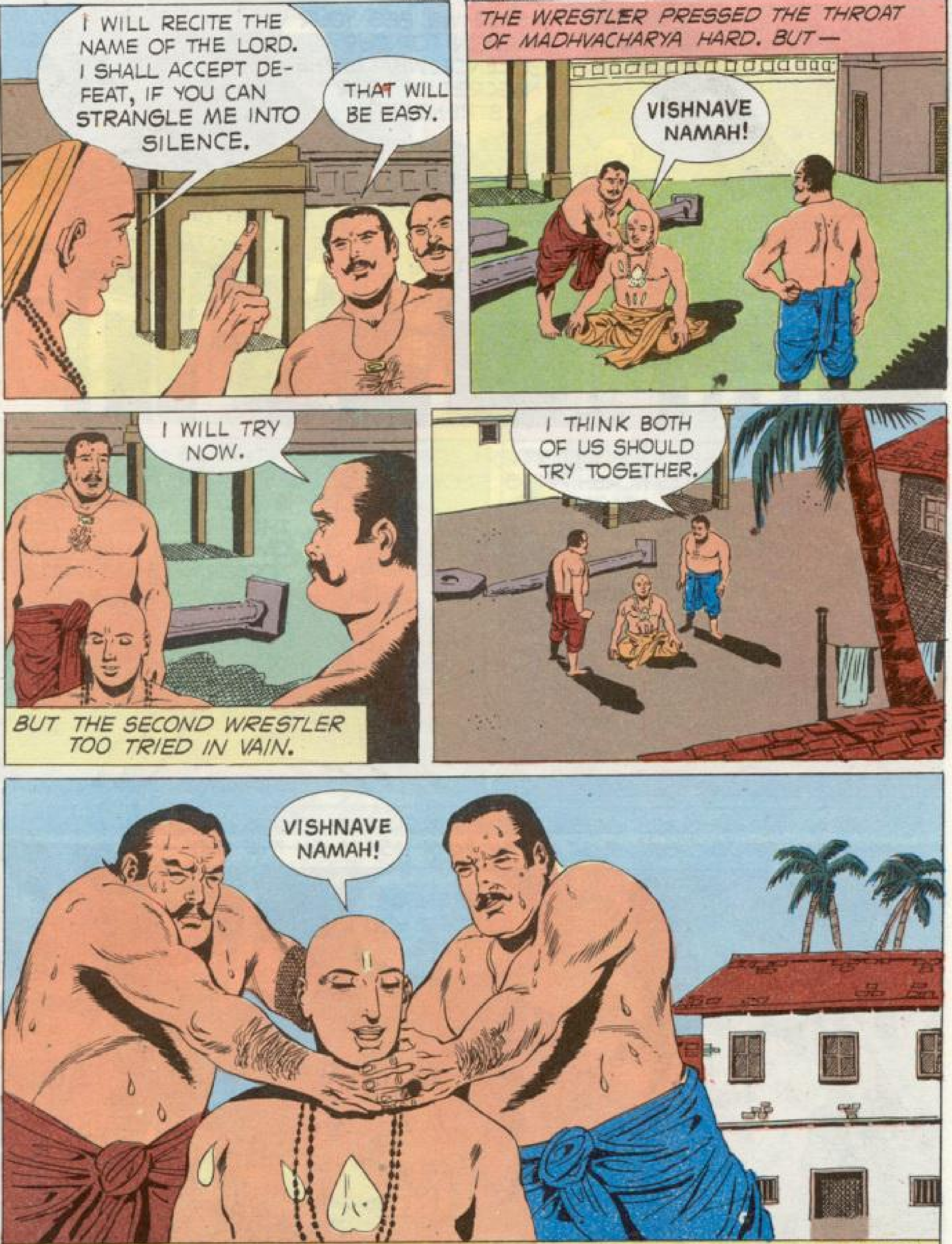

MADHVACHARYA LIFTED THE IDOL . . .

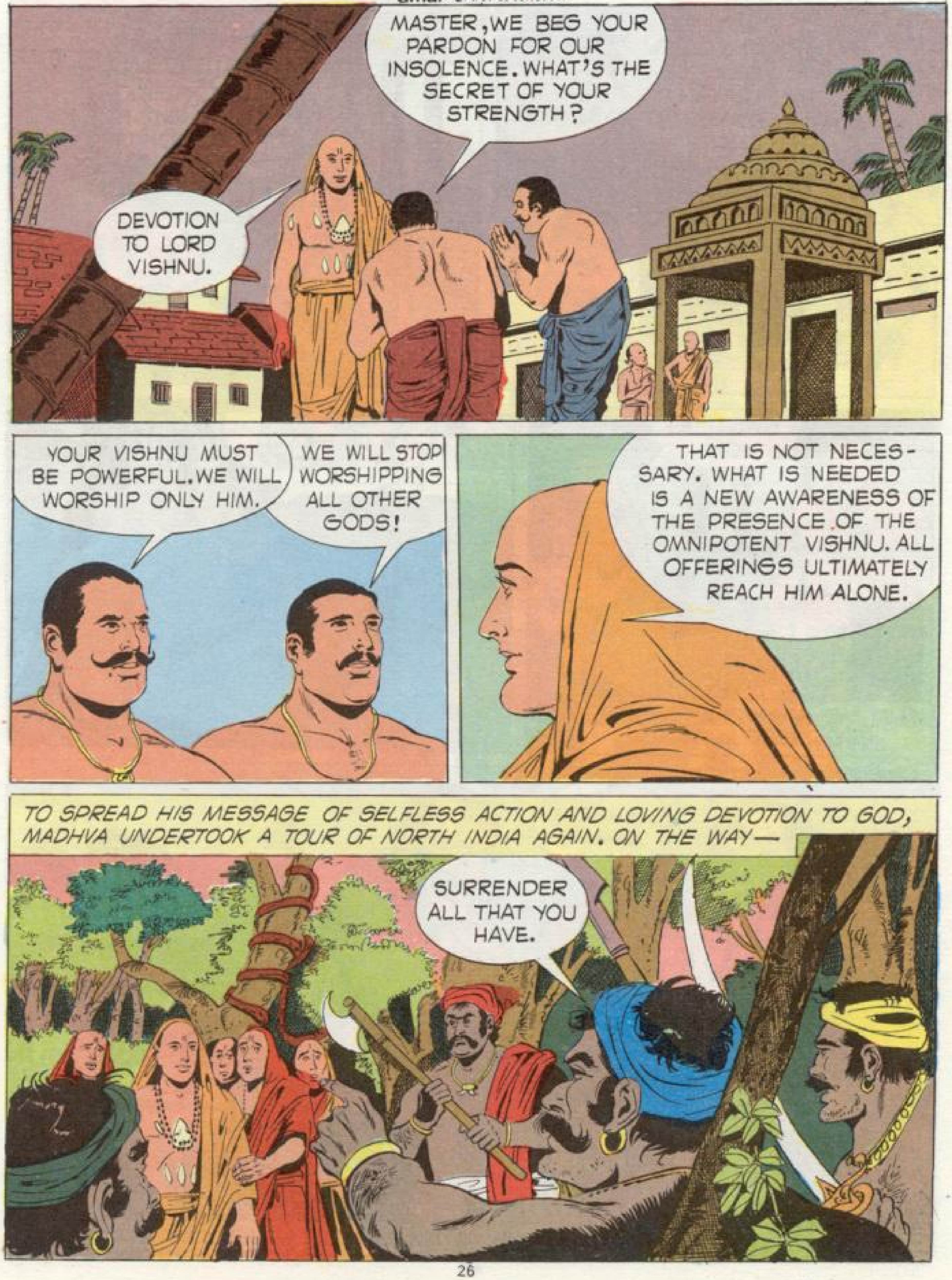

. . . AND LOVINGLY CARRIED IT INTO HIS MUTT.

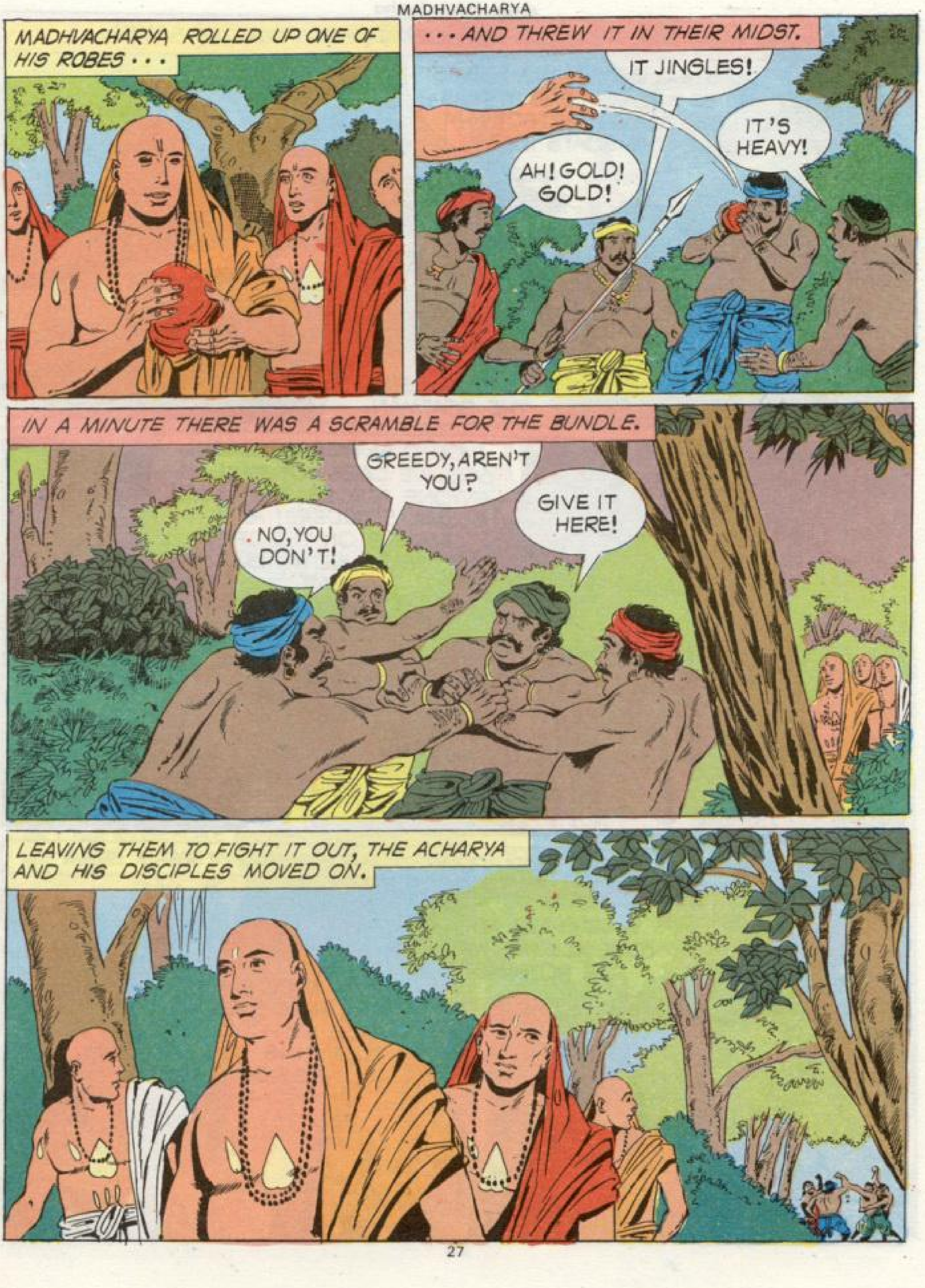

LATER, MADHVACHARYA HAD A SHRINE BUILT FOR THE LORD IN A PORTION OF HIS MUTT WHERE THE IDOL WAS CONSECRATED WITH DUE CEREMONY.


MADHVACHARYA, WHO DID NOT UPHOLD VIOLENCE, WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF KILLING ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF RITUAL SACRIFICES.
THERE IS NO NEED TO KILL LIVE ANIMALS. IMAGES MADE OF FLOUR COULD BE USED INSTEAD.
LATER, HIS BROTHER REPORTED TO MADHVACHARYA.
NO ONE IS PREPARED TO USE IMAGES. THEY CONTINUE TO KILL ANIMALS.
SOME ONE SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD. WHY DON'T YOU?
WHEN MADHVACHARYA'S BROTHER DID SO, ORTHODOX BRAHMANS INVADED THE SACRIFICIAL SITE.
STOP IT AT ONCE! THIS PRACTICE IS AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.
YOU ARE MISTAKEN. I AM ONLY REVIVING AN OLD CUSTOM WHICH HAS THE SANCTION OF THE SCRIPTURES. MOREOVER, NO PRACTICE WHICH UPHOLDS THE SANCTITY OF LIFE COULD BE AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.

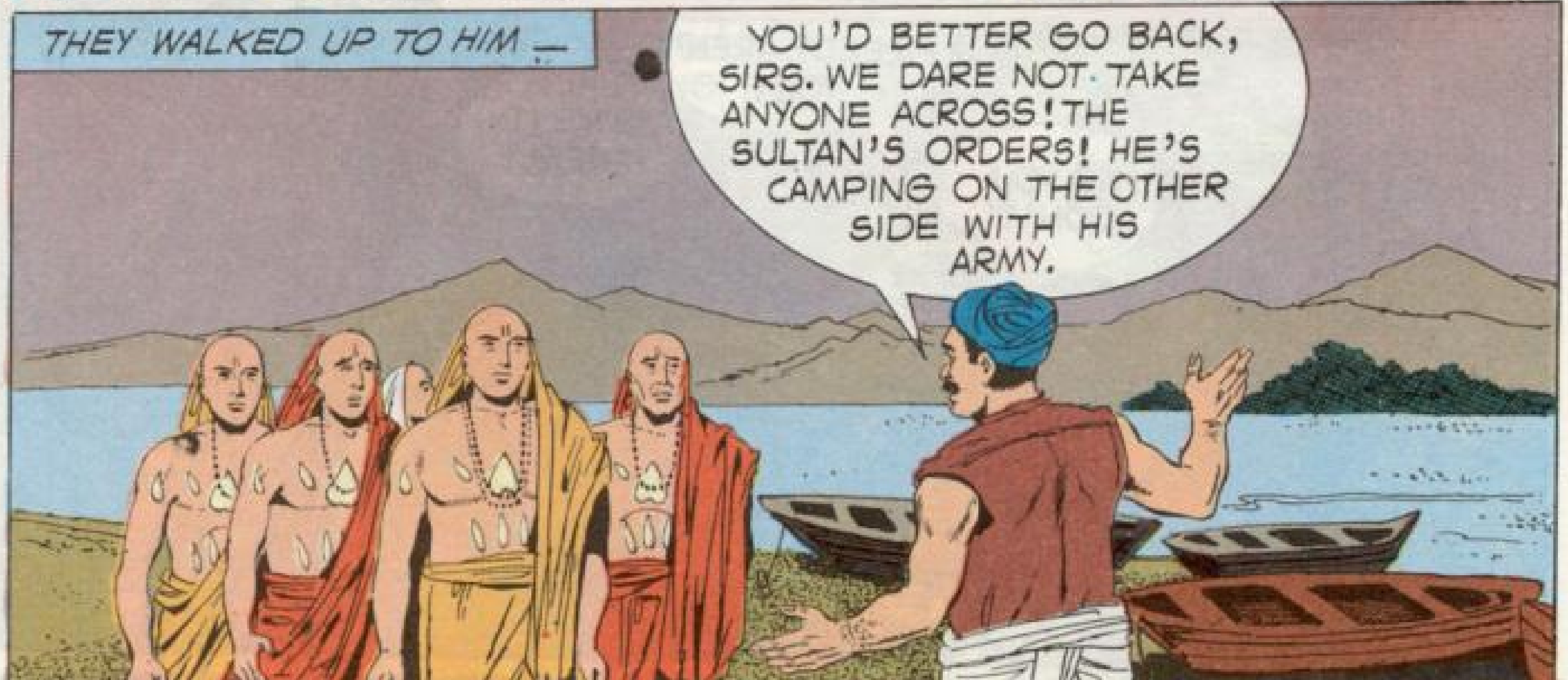

PROCEED WITH THE SACRIFICE.
HE IS RIGHT!
THE ORTHODOX BRAHMANS HAD TO WITHDRAW. LATER, MORE AND MORE BRAHMANS FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE SET BY MADHVACHARYA'S BROTHER.
THOUGH KNOWN MAINLY FOR HIS POWERFUL INTELLECT, THE ACHARYA WAS ALSO FAMED FOR HIS IMMENSE PHYSICAL STRENGTH. ONCE, TWO WRESTLERS CAME TO HIM.
WE COME TO CHALLENGE YOU TO MEET US IN A WRESTLING MATCH.
I AM WILLING TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE. BUT I MUST FIRST SEE IF YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH FOR IT.
NO ONE HAS DOUBTED OUR STRENGTH BEFORE. LOOK, I WILL LIFT THAT PILLAR.
WHAT FURTHER PROOF DO YOU NEED?
YOU MAY HAVE STRENGTH TO LIFT A LIFELESS PILLAR. BUT THE TEST I PROPOSE IS OF A DIFFERENT NATURE.

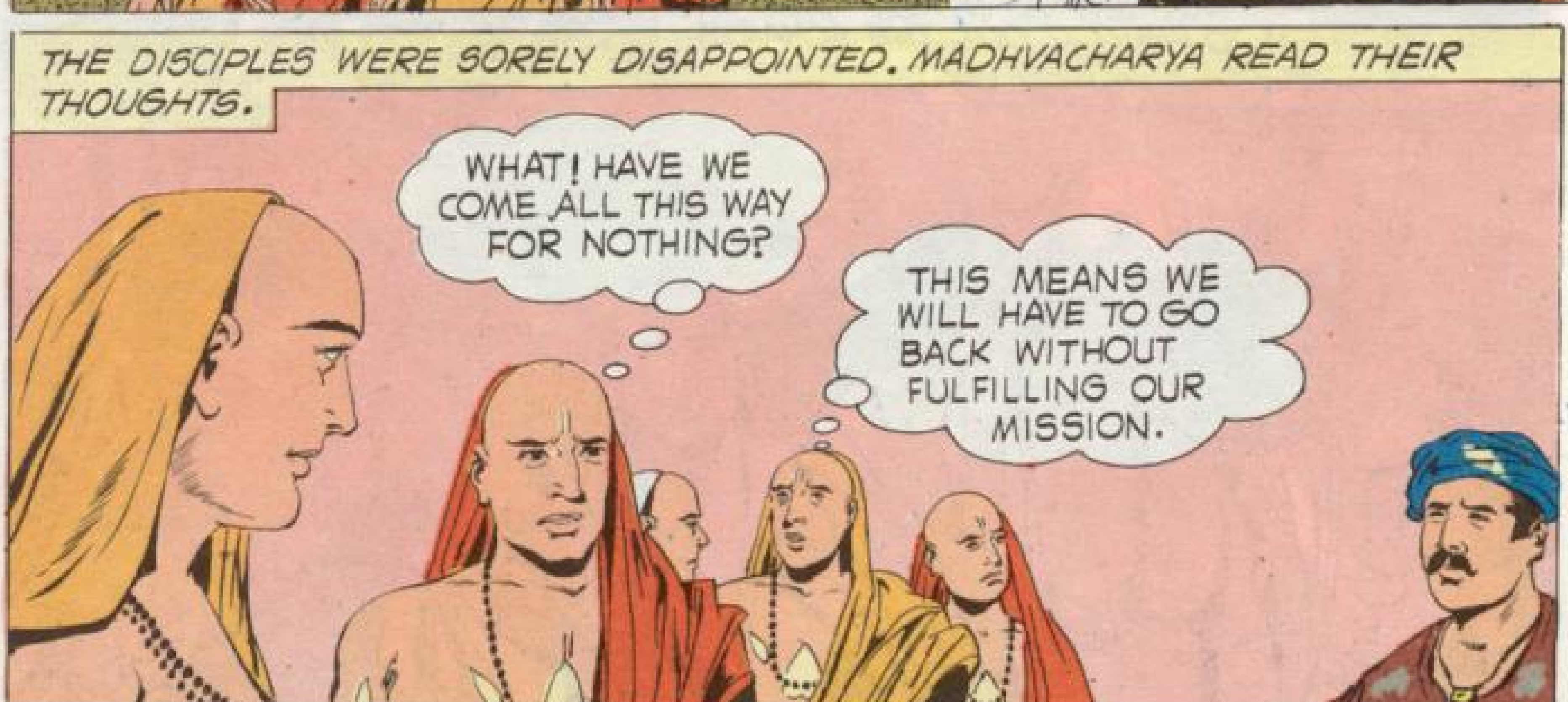

I WILL RECITE THE NAME OF THE LORD. I SHALL ACCEPT DEFEAT, IF YOU CAN STRANGLE ME INTO SILENCE.
THAT WILL BE EASY.
THE WRESTLER PRESSED THE THROAT OF MADHVACHARYA HARD. BUT—
VISHNAVE NAMAH!
I WILL TRY NOW.
BUT THE SECOND WRESTLER TOO TRIED IN VAIN.
I THINK BOTH OF US SHOULD TRY TOGETHER.
VISHNAVE NAMAH!
THEY USED ALL THEIR MIGHT, BUT THE HYMN CONTINUED TO BE HEARD, LOUD AND CLEAR.


MASTER, WE BEG YOUR PARDON FOR OUR INSOLENCE. WHAT'S THE SECRET OF YOUR STRENGTH?
DEVOTION TO LORD VISHNU.
YOUR VISHNU MUST BE POWERFUL. WE WILL WORSHIP ONLY HIM.
WE WILL STOP WORSHIPPING ALL OTHER GODS!
THAT IS NOT NECES-SARY. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A NEW AWARENESS OF THE PRESENCE OF THE OMNIPOTENT VISHNU. ALL OFFERINGS ULTIMATELY REACH HIM ALONE.
TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE OF SELFLESS ACTION AND LOVING DEVOTION TO GOD, MADHVA UNDERTOOK A TOUR OF NORTH INDIA AGAIN. ON THE WAY—
SURRENDER ALL THAT YOU HAVE.

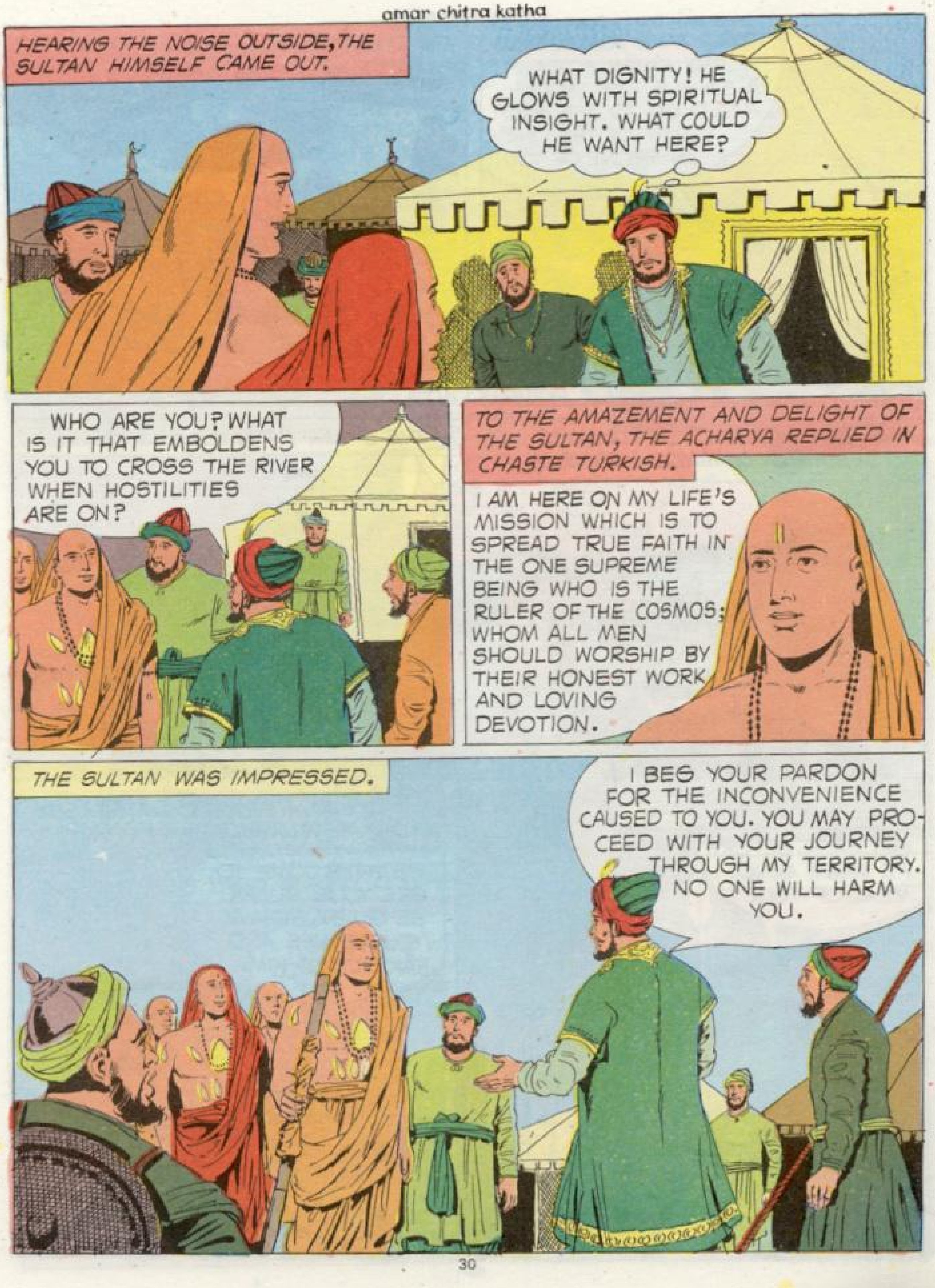

MADHVACHARYA ROLLED UP ONE OF HIS ROBES . . .
. . . AND THREW IT IN THEIR MIDST.
IT JINGLES!
AH! GOLD! GOLD!
IT'S HEAVY!
IN A MINUTE THERE WAS A SCRAMBLE FOR THE BUNDLE.
GREEDY, AREN'T YOU?
NO, YOU DON'T!
GIVE IT HERE!
LEAVING THEM TO FIGHT IT OUT, THE ACHARYA AND HIS DISCIPLES MOVED ON.

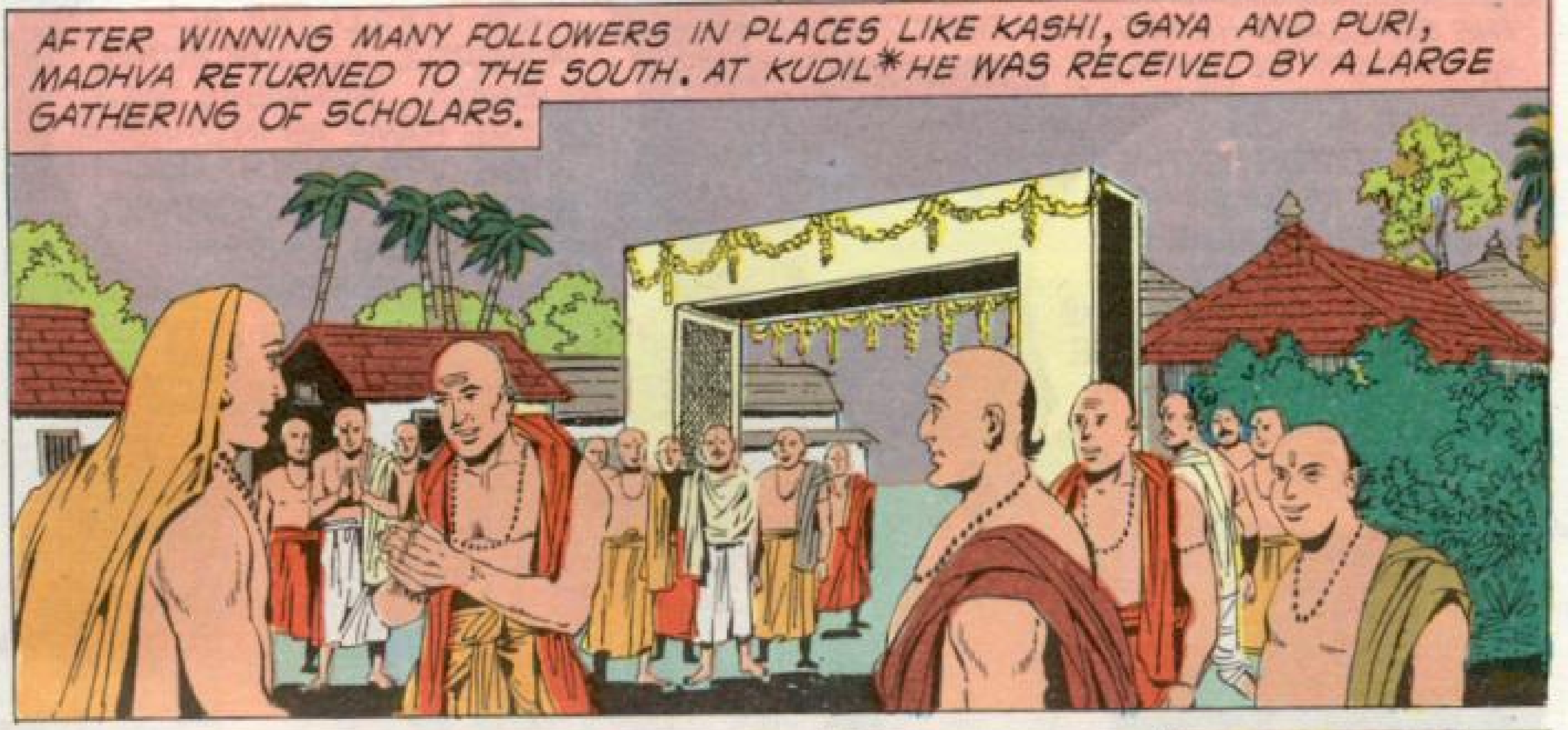

DAYS LATER, WHEN THEY REACHED THE SOUTHERN BANK OF THE GANGA—
MASTER, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WRONG HERE. WHY IS THE PLACE DESERTED? WHY ARE THE BOATS IDLE?
LET'S QUESTION THE BOATMAN.

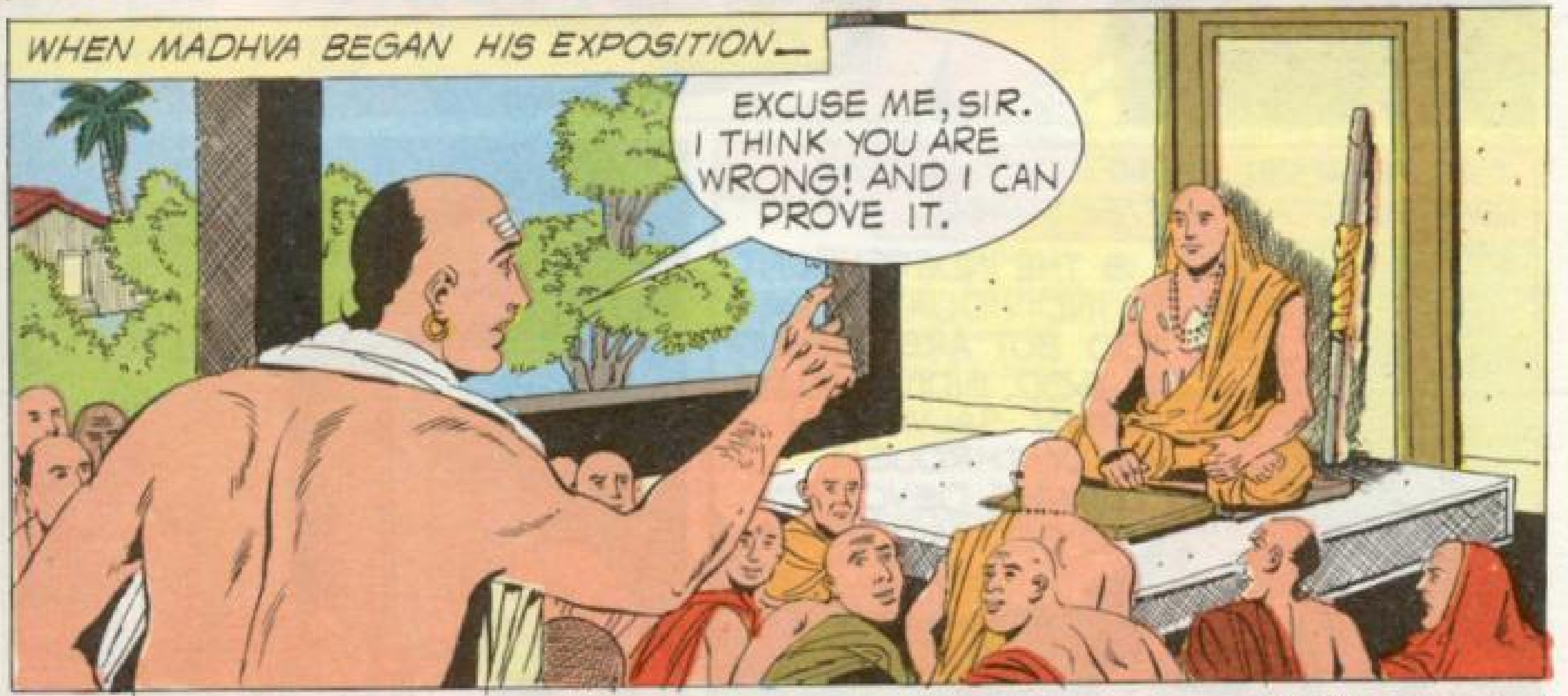

THEY WALKED UP TO HIM —
YOU'D BETTER GO BACK, SIRS. WE DARE NOT TAKE ANYONE ACROSS! THE SULTAN'S ORDERS! HE'S CAMPING ON THE OTHER SIDE WITH HIS ARMY.

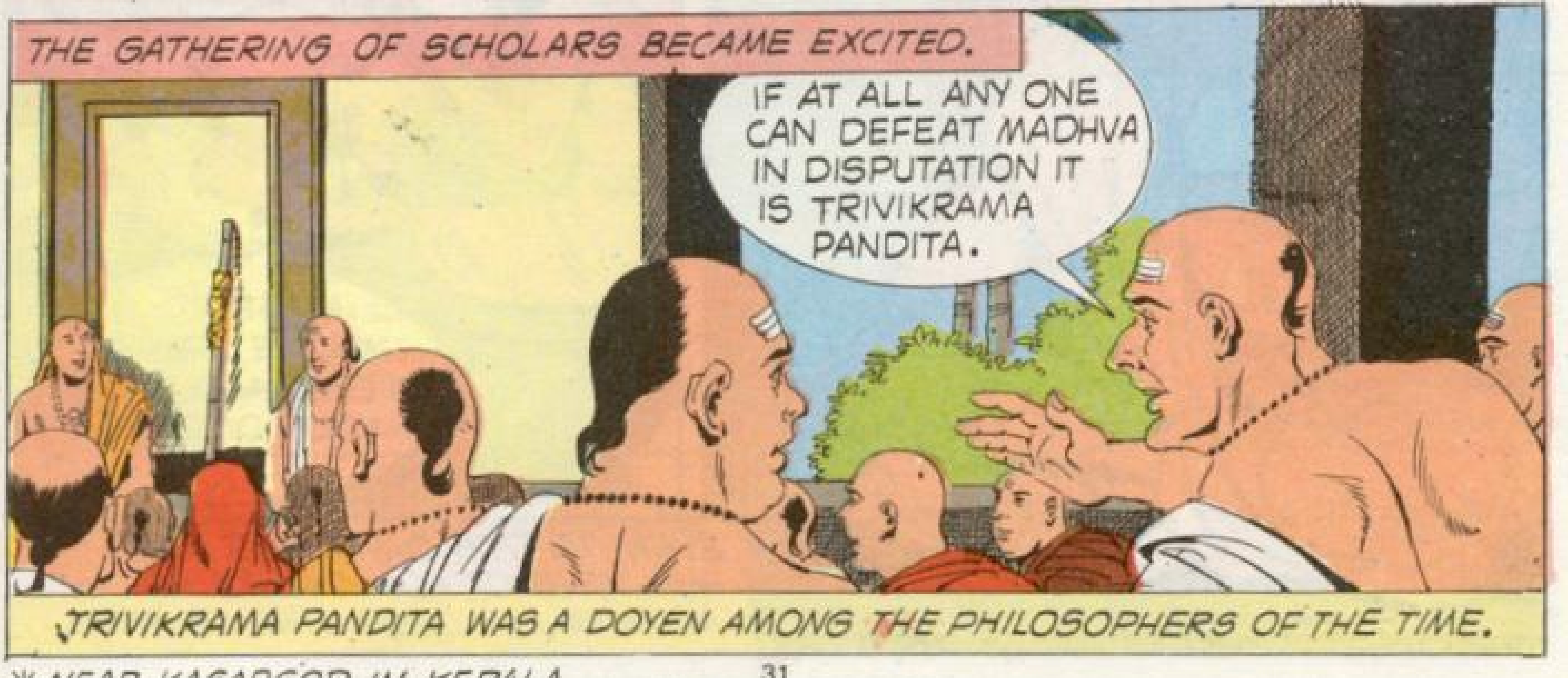

THE DISCIPLES WERE SORELY DISAPPOINTED. MADHVACHARYA READ THEIR THOUGHTS.
WHAT! HAVE WE COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING?
THIS MEANS WE WILL HAVE TO GO BACK WITHOUT FULFILLING OUR MISSION.


I WILL TAKE YOU ACROSS THE RIVER. FORM A SINGLE FILE AND HOLD ON TO THE WAIST CLOTH OF THE ONE IN FRONT OF YOU.
THE DISCIPLES DID AS THEY WERE TOLD.
THE NEXT MOMENT, THE SULTAN'S MEN ON THE OTHER BANK WERE SHOCKED TO SEE A ROW OF HINDU MONKS.
HEY! LOOK! INFIDELS!
THEY RUSHED FORWARD.
GO BACK, BEFORE WE MAKE MINCE-MEAT OF YOU.
THE ACHARYA STOOD CALM, SERENE AND UNPERTURBED.
WE HAVE COME TO SEE YOUR RULER. BE QUIET, BEHAVE YOURSELVES AND TAKE US TO HIM.

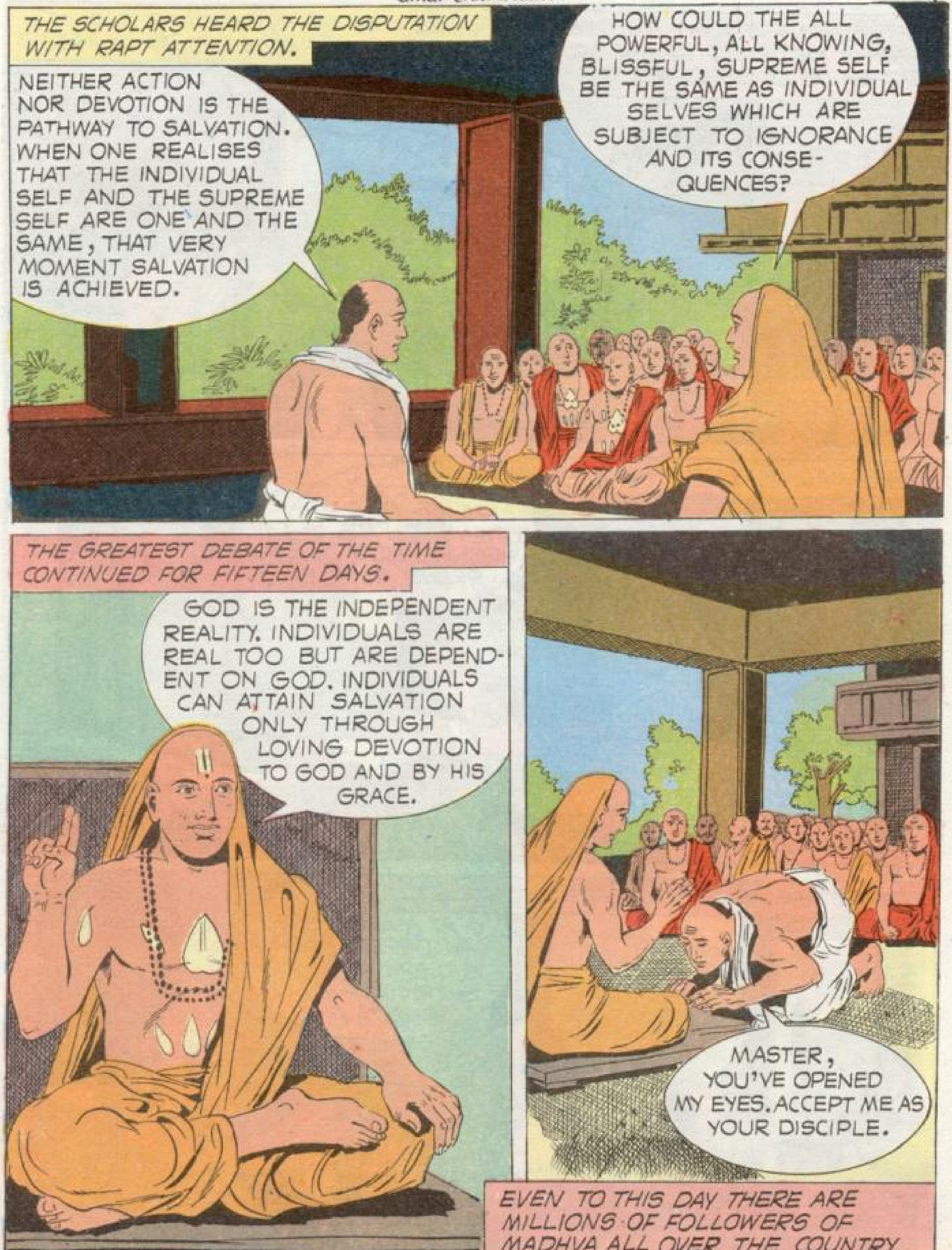

HEARING THE NOISE OUTSIDE, THE SULTAN HIMSELF CAME OUT.
WHAT DIGNITY! HE GLOWS WITH SPIRITUAL INSIGHT. WHAT COULD HE WANT HERE?
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS IT THAT EMBOLDENS YOU TO CROSS THE RIVER WHEN HOSTILITIES ARE ON?
TO THE AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT OF THE SULTAN, THE ACHARYA REPLIED IN CHASTE TURKISH.
I AM HERE ON MY LIFE'S MISSION WHICH IS TO SPREAD TRUE FAITH IN THE ONE SUPREME BEING WHO IS THE RULER OF THE COSMOS; WHOM ALL MEN SHOULD WORSHIP BY THEIR HONEST WORK AND LOVING DEVOTION.
THE SULTAN WAS IMPRESSED.
I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO YOU. YOU MAY PROCEED WITH YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH MY TERRITORY. NO ONE WILL HARM YOU.




* NEAR KASARGOD IN KERALA


THE SCHOLARS HEARD THE DISPUTATION WITH RAPT ATTENTION.
NEITHER ACTION NOR DEVOTION IS THE PATHWAY TO SALVATION. WHEN ONE REALISES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SELF AND THE SUPREME SELF ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THAT VERY MOMENT SALVATION IS ACHIEVED.
HOW COULD THE ALL POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, BLISSFUL, SUPREME SELF BE THE SAME AS INDIVIDUAL SELVES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO IGNORANCE AND ITS CONSE-QUENCES?
THE GREATEST DEBATE OF THE TIME CONTINUED FOR FIFTEEN DAYS.
GOD IS THE INDEPENDENT REALITY. INDIVIDUALS ARE REAL TOO BUT ARE DEPEND-ENT ON GOD. INDIVIDUALS CAN ATTAIN SALVATION ONLY THROUGH LOVING DEVOTION TO GOD AND BY HIS GRACE.
MASTER, YOU'VE OPENED MY EYES. ACCEPT ME AS YOUR DISCIPLE.
EVEN TO THIS DAY THERE ARE MILLIONS OF FOLLOWERS OF MADHVA ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Illustrated Classics From India

# Madhvacharya

Madhvacharya taught men to look upon the world of matter and souls as real instead of as illusory and unreal in a philosophical sense. He therefore put forward a fresh ontological classification of reality into two orders, Svatantra and Paratantra – independent and dependent. God alone is the one independent reality. Hence the name Dvaita (dualism) given to his system.

Madhva freed the concept of Bhakti from the clutches of blind faith and placed it in its right perspective as informed faith in, and love of God, both based on a right understanding of his glory. He also rescued it from the pitfalls of sentimentalism, eroticism and other maladies.

Madhva lived a robust life of 79 years. He was a prolific writer in Sanskrit prose and verse. He wrote thirty-nine works which are collectively known as Sarvamula. These include commentaries on Rig Veda, Upanishads, Gita, Brahmasutras, Mahabharata, Bhagawat and critical works on logic and metaphysics, rituals and *sadachara* (right conduct ). He also wrote a number of devotional hymns.

The Chaitanya Sampradaya of Bengal is deeply indebted to Madhva's philosophy in many respects. It includes in its *guruparampara* Madhva and his successors, Jayatirtha and Vyasatirtha. The followers of Madhva are found in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Uttar Pradesh.

Madhva's system has made a massive contribution to Indian Philosophy through the writings of great commentators such as Jayatirtha, Vyasatirtha, Raghuthama, Vadiraja and Raghavendra, to mention only a few. The Haridasas of Karnataka, owing allegiance to Madhva philosophy, such as Purandara Dasa, Kanaka Dasa and Jagannatha Dasa have made equally significant contributions to Kannada religious literature.

**Editor: Anant Pai**

**Script: Dr. B.N.K. Sharma    Illustrations: H.S. Chavan    Cover: C.M. Vitankar**

## Related Titles

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu • Adi Shankara

Kabir • Mahavira • Buddha

Basaveshwara • Jnaneshwar

ISBN 81-7508-284-4

9 788175 082847

IBH
INDIA BOOK HOUSE